

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS  
OF THE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS  
NO. 156 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA  
REV. S. HALL YOUNG, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY  
JUNEAU, ALASKA  
March 6, 1922.

*File*

Mr. W.R. Patterson, Ph. D.,  
156-5th. Ave., New York.

Dear Dr. Patterson:

I have just redeived a letter from Mr. Beck, of Hoonah, in which occurs the following paragraph:

"We have about sixteen acres of fine land here. I can form no estimate of what it is worth on the market, but it will be of untold value to the cause of the Presbyterian Church in Alaska if we handle it as we should. My plan is to issue lots of fifty by one hundred feet to worthy natives who will agree to clear up the lot, build a proper house, and paint it within one year, with the understanding that if they keep their promise at the end of the year they shall receive absolute title to the property. The question as to charging a small sum for the ground or not has not been fully settled in my own mind."

I am simply sending you this as affording more light on the Hoonah property. If we have a committee that can get together we will make a definite recommendation in regard to that property.

Very cordially,

*S. Hall Young*

SHY/RMa



FIRE PROOF

CABLE ADDRESS: TELFRYE

EUROPEAN



*In R Hoonah Alaska  
Manse*  
**HOTEL FRYE**

DAN W. BASS AND P. H. WATT  
MANAGERS

SEATTLE'S NEWEST AND LARGEST HOTEL

SEATTLE Sept 4<sup>th</sup> 1922

Mr Varian Banks

Treas Board of Home Missions  
156 Fifth Ave New York City

My Dear Mr. Banks.

We have arrived and the change is doing us a world of good.

Had a fine trip down and did not care whether the engine missed or not. We sat tight and let the other fellow do the work. The boat plan seems to be working out even better than we expected, but as we have not seen Mr Keeler yet we have nothing to report.

After arriving at Juneau with Thornton I found great plans had been made for our boat work



OK  
September 12th, 1922.

Re: Hoonah, Alaska

The Board of the Church Erection Fund,  
Building.

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of this Board, and with the approval of our Executive Council, I hereby make formal application for a grant of \$5,355. for a new manse building to be erected at Hoonah, Alaska, for the use of Rev. George J. Beck, our missionary at that point.

I have personally seen the present building which Mr. Beck and his wife occupy and while it would answer every requirement in a climate where there is eternal sunshine and high temperature, it is a lamentable failure during the cold season in Alaska; no matter how hard they run the ~~stove~~<sup>stoves</sup> nor how much coal they use it is impossible to heat the house, <sup>in winter</sup> so that Mr. and Mrs. Beck, during the greater part of the winter, in order to have their meals must move their dining table close to the stove in order to secure even a fair amount of comfort.

Mr. Beck is, according to the testimony of all the brethren in Alaska, probably our most successful and best missionary in that territory and I might say that this application is not made upon a request or even a suggestion of Mr. Beck, but rather comes from other members of the Presbytery who realize that Mr. Beck would never complain himself no matter how much he suffered.

It may be that through negotiations which we now have entered into with a lumber merchant a part, if not all, of the lumber required for the erection of this building may be secured as a gift in which event we will be required to pay the freight charges only. If our hopes in this respect are realized the amount required for the erection of this manse will be largely reduced. Whatever saving can be secured will be reported to you and only the actual amount of cash required to put up the building will be called for. I respectfully request, however, that the full amount be granted as the maximum sum required, but with the hope that this sum may be reduced eventually from 20% to 40%.

Respectfully yours,

Treasurer  
for the Board of Home Missions

VB MG

*I will gladly fill out to the best of my ability  
any formal paper you may desire.*



# CERTIFICATE OF VALUE

To the Board of Church Erection:-

156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

192

I do hereby certify that the Lot described as follows:-

*A tract of land*

upon which there is  $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{being} \\ \text{to be} \\ \text{now} \end{array} \right\}$  erected a *Manse*, is in my opinion worth not less than

\$....., and I understand

NOTE HERE THE VALUE OF THE LOT

that the  $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{being} \\ \text{to be} \\ \text{now} \end{array} \right\}$  erected thereon  $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{is to} \\ \text{has} \end{array} \right\}$  cost \$.....

as per statement of.....  $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{architect.} \\ \text{builder.} \end{array} \right\}$

Signed.....

I do hereby certify that the above is the signature of one of the leading  $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{real estate} \\ \text{banking} \end{array} \right\}$

firms in.....and was subscribed

and sworn to before me, this.....day of.....192

Notary Public.

Endorsed by.....

Chairman of the Church Erection Committee

of the Presbytery of.....

( Please erase bracketed words which you do not need )



Certificate of Value  
of

---

Presbyterian Church

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192





Hoonah, Alaska.

September 23rd. 1922.

Mr. Varian Banks, Treasurer,  
Board of Home Missions, Pres. Ch.  
156 Fifth Ave New, York, City.

My Dear Mr. Banks:-

You will see by this letter that I am home and on the job again. The trip to the States did me a world of good. I appreciate it more than you have any idea and my only hope is that it will work out to the best interest of the work. I left Mrs. Beck with Kosseyia at her brothers home in Portland. and expect her home again next week. My daughter was to leave for New York City on the 23rd of this month.

So many things have happened since you came to Alaska that I hardly know where I stand and my heart is filled with gratitude to God for His watchful care over us, I feel great prospects are before us and with the equipment promised great things will be done. The thought of a little larger boat with more power is great. It opens up such a field. When we can take a party of Christian natives to another station and hold special services for a few days it will mean more for the building up of the Masters Kingdom than anything we could do. And then( but that is too much to even hope for) if we could only find a doctor like Dr. Wilbur used to be who will be willing to spend a year or two on the boat that would go into these villages what work, what experience and the wonder-work he could do. Surely there must be some of those young men left in the world who want to serve the Master.

Now Mr. Banks this is something else. You have given us pretty good reason to expect a new house next summer we shall be very glad to get it. You also told us to include a lighting plant as well as a heater. This is what I have been thinking about the last few days. If we are to have a Delco Lighting plant for the house will it not be possible to get it this winter. We cannot use a heating plant until the house is built but we could set the light up without any extra cost and it would mean so much during the long dark winter. I have the wire for the church and the one machine will light both church and manse. If we can flood the church with light it will help so much to open up the pockets of our members to make the rest of the building correspond. A good lighting system will mean more to the whole work here even than a heating plant and the good Lord knows how much we need that.

With kindest regards to all

I am most sincerely yours

*Geo. J. Beck*





Hoonah, Alaska.

October 6th. 1922.

Mr. Varian Banks, Treasurer.  
Board of Home Missions  
156 Fifth Ave. New York City.

My Dear Mr. Banks:-

Your two letters arrived this morning. Thanks very much for the checks, I have just remailed them to the parties interested. It will be fine when we can have an advance and pay cash when we do our buying.

I feel that the property matters are settled and it has lifted such a load from my heart that if nothing else came from your visit this summer the trip would be many times worthwhile.

There are two large ships anchored just in front of the village one of them struck an iceberg just outside of the harbor and the other one towed her in and is transferring the cargo, we did nothing of the kind when we had you onboard did we?

I believe the trip did do Mr. Waggoner and myself a great deal of good and I know it was just what Mrs. Beck needed. I cannot say that we accomplished very much for the work but only time will reveal that. The trip in Mr. Keelers machine did me a world of good for I saw what home missionaries in the states are up against and that we in Alaska do not have all the hard things to do.

I am not troubled about the manse. You know all about it; one of the sad mistakes of the mission work in Hoonah was the fixing up of the old building and I am afraid that the greater part of that \$500 was given to the men who did the work. Part of it was spent for the bath room fixtures which will be perfectly good for the new building and as the chimneys are of cement blocks we may be able to use them over again but as far as the rest of the building is concerned we cannot plan on getting anything out of it, that is for sale at a profit. On the other hand we need every stick we can save out of it to build a shop and wood shed. I believe we are starting out into a much greater work than we have ever undertaken before. The "Princeton" if she is built and the "Lois" as she stands today must have some kind of a repair shop and we want to use every piece of timber we can save out of the old manse for that purpose. Don't say anything to good Dr. Wylie about it but just ask Mrs. Wylie how she would like to sweep up sawdust and shavings in her living room and kitchen like Mrs. Beck does when I have to repair the Lois; yesterday the house was filled with smoke while I was doing some blacksmith work for the keel of the Lois. I simply mention these matters to show you what will become of the old manse if it should be torn down.

With kindest regards to all I am

Most cordially yours

*Geo. E. Beck*



October 10th, 1922.

Rev. George J. Beck,  
Hoonah, Alaska  
D  
Dear Mr. Beck:

I now acknowledge your letter of the 23rd ult. in which you have referred to your expectation that a new house will be furnished for your use next summer. This was my expectation too, and with a feeling of assurance I made application to the Board of Church Erection for a grant with the result as I recently advised you. It would seem, in view of the deluge of applications received by the Board of Church Erection for manse grants, that they will be compelled to consider, in case they can make a grant, a much less sum than your new house will cost. I will, therefore, need your reply to my letter concerning what salvage can be secured from the present building in order to arrive at the definite net sum it will be necessary to have to erect a new building. Our Board has reached its limit with regard to its borrowing capacity. Our loans now total \$750,000.

With regard to your statement that a Delco Lighting plant is greatly needed before the winter sets in, which plant can be so installed as to make it available for the new manse when erected - you do not state how much such a plant will cost, and as I cannot say definitely at this writing that the new manse can be counted on, I can only ask if you can give me an approximate estimate for the cost of such a plant in the hope that by the time I receive your reply we can find a way to comply with your request to have the Delco Lighting plant installed now. I could readily get prices here or in Seattle if I only knew the amount of power and the size of plant you need. In sending your reply I would suggest that you send a carbon copy of your letter to Rev. A. B. Keeler, 524 Leary Bldg., Seattle, Washington and I will write him that when it is received he will understand that it is for the purpose of securing his assistance in the way of obtaining an estimate as to the cost of this plant delivered F.O.B. Seattle.

I do appreciate very much the point you make that by lighting the Church properly it will not only make the building more attractive but it will encourage the people to do their best in renovating or improving the rest of the building to correspond.

I did not realize when in Hoonah that the Board of Church Erection would have such an unusually large number of applications for aid but it seems that the action of the General Assembly in directing the Church Erection Board to use a quarter of a million dollars of the Kennedy Fund to meet these urgent needs has become well ventilated among the Churches throughout the country and they are now sending in applications in sufficient number to use double that amount. You may rest assured, however, that I will do my best to get the Church Erection Board to make as generous a grant



Rev. George J. Beck - page 2. October 10th, 1922.

as possible. If such grant as can be secured is insufficient to erect a new building then, as the only alternative, it will have to wait until we can find the balance of the money needed. Just at the present time I do not know where it is coming from. I only wish that the condition of your house at Hoonah had been called to my attention a year ago as I think then there would have been much less difficulty in securing the desired sum. I will await with interest your answer to my previous letter that I may know just what to say to the Church Erection Board.

I trust that Mrs. Beck returned on time and in the best of health and that she, like yourself, gained much benefit from the change you recently had.

With my kindest regards to you both, I am

Sincerely yours,

VJ MG

Treasurer



*Hoonah, Alaska - lots*

October 25th, 1922.

Rev. George J. Beck,  
Hoonah, Alaska

Dear Mr. Beck:

The Executive Council of the Board has taken favorable action on the recommendation I submitted covering the granting of deeds to natives of Hoonah for plots of ground 100 x 100 on the conditions agreed upon at our conference in Juneau, viz: that deeds shall be given to those men who have already erected houses and have proven themselves worthy of the gift, and that other Indians of whom you may approve, shall be permitted to occupy plots of ground the above size, with the condition attached that if within a year of such occupation they erect suitable houses for their needs the Board will grant them likewise a full deed to such plot.

At the first meeting of the Finance Committee held after my return to New York, I had such an enormous docket that some things had to be laid aside until the next meeting, among them this property matter. I submitted the whole question to the members of the Finance Committee by mail and have received affirmative reply from three of the six members. The Chairman of our Finance Committee, however, says "I hesitate on this. I question the right to give away property of value. It usually does harm to the recipient also. I would like to talk it over with you." Of course, the mind of this member can be cleared I think without difficulty inasmuch as I will make the point which is incontrovertible, that the property was acquired originally for the use and benefit of the native Indians and that, therefore, such part as is not required by the Board in its work should be placed at the disposal of worthy Indians.

I am, therefore, writing for the following purpose: that you make a specific report to me covering the amount of land which, in your judgment, the Board will require in the next decade or two, at least. That is make a generous computation of the land which we not only need now, but will likely need later. I want to make it very clear to the Chairman of our Finance Committee that the Board's future requirements will be fully protected before we begin to deed that land to the Indians, and I believe this condition wise and reasonable. There is no question in my mind but that every member of our Finance Committee will approve of the recommendations already submitted.

I had an impression that we once had a blue print of the Hoonah property setting apart that portion which was not required for our mission work, divided into lots, but on referring to our files the only blue print I can find is the one furnished by F.S. Witsworth, U.S. Deputy Surveyor in September 1896. This blue print covers a tract of land of 200.3 acres. This, of course, will not help us. What we need is a blue print of the 15.16 acres which the Board owns through patent. This, evidently, will involve the resurvey of the tract which we now hold and under your guidance the setting apart of a number of lots. Before this survey can be made, however, we need to know where the money is coming from. At the present



MP

Rev. George J. Beck - page 2. October 25th, 1922.

time we haven't a penny available for such a survey. Unless you can furnish such a survey at practically no expense I do not see but what we will have to wait an opportunity to have some one do this work for us as soon as the funds are forthcoming with which to meet such an expense. It may be that you have in your possession sufficient data to simplify this problem.

I find in our Hoonah property file a small paper designated as "Pencil tracing from blue print showing mission tract at Hoonah Alaska, held under patent by the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church." I am giving you on a separate paper a tracing of this sheet which we have which would indicate that our present holdings have been surveyed and that blue print is in existence. If such is the fact please have a copy made of this blue print, if in your possession, or in case it is in the hands of Mr. Whitworth drop him a line asking him to send me a copy of it.

Also in this connection, there should be a formal paper drawn up in the case of each Indian accepting the Board's proposition, when finally and officially approved. So that no difficulty will arise in the future each plot should be well marked by stones or pipe, these markings being preferable to wood and record kept by you, as well as supplied to this office, of such plots so that we can from time to time record against a given plot the name of the man to whom it is assigned. We cannot be too careful in keeping full record and all necessary data in connection with these proposed transfers in order to avoid any possible trouble in the future. We have not in the past been sufficiently insistent on regular records being made so I want, in the case of Hoonah, to have your full cooperation that the desire of your heart may be fully realized.

Sincerely yours,

VB MG Treasurer



Hoonah Alaska.  
October 27th. 1922.

Mr. Varian Banks, Treasurer.  
Board of Home Missions, Presbyterian Church.  
156 Fifth Ave. New York City.

My Dear Mr. Banks:-

Neither Mrs. Beck or myself believe a five or six thousand dollar house is needed at this station. It is nice to have standardized houses on all fields but it really would be better to have a small cottage here for it will be a long time before a minister with a large family could live in Hoonah for he could not educate his children.

We have no way of telling how long we shall stay but do not look forward to a great deal of pleasure to the caring for a large house. We do feel however that a good lighting plant is very essential and we must get it in some way.

I will enclose a catalog with the plant we really need, (Model No. 866) The one plant will light the church as well as the house and will be a great lever to pry these people out of the rut they are in. I think the price we gave you was five hundred dollars. I know the old time missionaries never asked for these things, neither have we for nearly thirty years but times have changed and we need them now to meet changed conditions.

Now Mr. Banks we want the work of the Lord to prosper in this part of the world. We don't want house, boat or lighting plant unless it is for the best interest of His service.

We want a boat that is a bit longer and wider than the Lois that she may keep the sea in all weather and carry the gospel to all the people in Southeastern Alaska all the year round. We have only half done the work so far and now is the time to finish what we have begun.

Mrs. Beck and I have spent so much running the ship that we have not had enough time to preach the gospel. You know all this but I have just written it down on paper for it "sort of" relieves the pressure".

The men who built the two model cottages on the mission ground harvested about ten sacks of potatoes each off their little plots. I have ordered a drag saw to run by gasoline for one of them and they will saw fire wood for sale and keep it on hand for those who will buy.

I have never been able to get any one to do this before, they had to see the money in sight and for that reason it was impossible to buy dry wood. Please send the deeds for those lots as soon as possible.

We are planning to start on the addition to the church next week and feel sure it will be finished.

We were much shocked on learning of Thornton's accident. Poor fellow it must have been very hard for him but he is taking it like the real man he is and I know in some way good will come of it

Most cordially yours

Geo. J. Beck



October 31st, 1922.

Re: Hoonah, Alaska

Rev. George J. Beck,  
Hoonah, Alaska

Dear Mr. Beck:

This will acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 8th inst. which came to hand on the 25th. Nineteen days from Hoonah is a pretty long time, but this is, of course, due to the fact that mails are less frequent than during the summer months, I assume. You state that now that property matters are settled it has lifted a load from your heart. I am very glad to know that the very probable action of our Board will prove so happy an event to you. The majority of our Finance Committee has agreed to the proposition I have submitted. One member, however, has not given his consent, mainly due to the fact that he does not understand the situation. I will make this very clear to him at the next meeting of our Finance Committee when this matter will be brought up for final decision. I was unable to ask the Finance Committee to consider this matter at its meeting held on October 4th for the reason that my docket was so large that a number of matters had to lie over, and I felt it would be better, in connection with the property matters at Hoonah and Haines, to make haste slowly. I, therefore, look forward to sending you definite word after our next Board meeting to be held on the 16th inst. that the Board agrees to transfer to worthy Indians at Hoonah title to land on which they have now erected buildings and to others who, after a year's occupancy, show their good faith by erecting suitable or commendable homes.

As I previously wrote you, we must be very sure to have all preliminaries arranged for carefully. We must keep on record not only the location of each lot which it is proposed to set apart for the use of the natives, but be careful to record any action against any one lot so that we will avoid negotiating for the transfer of the same lot to two different people. I will, therefore, await with much interest your reply to my letter of the 25th inst.

I am hoping that you have already or will soon write to Mr. Keeler concerning the cost of the Delco System. I would like very much to follow out your suggestion that this System be installed now for your use during the coming winter, but I can do nothing until I know just what the cost will be. I will, as soon as I get this definite statement, make application to the Board of Church Election at once, and somehow, I feel, they will grant the required sum and then a little later, before the winter closes, we can make application for the required amount with which to erect the new building, which amount will be less than the original sum you estimated in view of the Delco System, in case it is supplied, being available.

I am very glad to have your explanation about the old building. I heartily agree with you that when the present manse building is taken down you can wisely and economically use every stick in it for the erection of a repair shop. I will make some effective use of your report in this matter. When Mr. Keeler



Rev. George J. Beck - page 2. October 31st, 1922.

comes East next January we will together confer with Dr. Wylie on this matter and I think I am justified in holding out the hope that the new manse for your use will eventually be provided for. Had I not been privileged to visit Southeastern Alaska this summer I never could have understood the situation as I now have it, not only at Hoonah but elsewhere.

Dr. Bruce in one of his letters added this naive statement: "I hope that you are for us just as much as ever." I can heartily reply in the affirmative. I am mighty

I am mighty glad to learn that the trip you and Mrs. Beck took to Seattle last September has proven to be of such help to you both physically and mentally. I felt quite sure that this would be the case and I believe that the money expended was well invested.

I had a very nice letter from Thornton last week written from the Dawson Hospital at Dawson, New Mexico where he is still confined as a result of his unfortunate accident which, of course, you have learned about. Thornton writes that he hopes to be home in time for Thanksgiving dinner, though he will be on crutches. He is very cheerful about his condition. You can readily understand why, as I don't believe that boy could hold a grudge for five consecutive minutes. He also states that when he returns east he will get in touch with Dr. Hibben at once about his offer to work up a subscription for the new boat. Our Dr. McDowell, if he has not already seen Dr. Hibben, will do so at the first opportunity. It will be a fine thing when the necessary amount is raised to build and equip the "Princeton," and what a fine joyful time you men will have when, at last, proper facilities for conducting the work which should have been taken up long ago, through the possession of a boat big enough to be used for services at the various camps and villages. The new boat will take the place of many new chapels and therefore, the expenses connected with the work done through this boat will be, much less, than would the erection of a number of Church buildings.

Give my very best regards to Mrs. Beck.

Very sincerely yours,

VB MG

Treasurer



BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, U. S. A.  
SYNOD OF WASHINGTON

PHONE ELLIOTT 3905

SEATTLE, November 11, 1922.

OFFICE

524 LEARY BUILDING

A. B. KEELER, SUPT.

CENTRAL & WESTERN WASHINGTON

Mr. Varian Banks,  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York City.

Dear Varian:

After reading your letter and the enclosures from Mr. Beck regarding lights needed in his present church building and manse, I got in touch with Mr. Cunningham and we spent an hour last night going over this proposition to see what we could do. The following is before you for your consideration and decision:

1. A plant costing \$250. would not be worth consideration and the money invested as good as wasted.

2. Mr. Cunningham guarantees and recommends the model JR - 1 KW as marked on the enclosure to be a competent engine and plant to take care of the present building whatever it is, and any new manse that would be likely to be built. The regular price is \$645. FOB Sandusky, Ohio. He offers this to you for \$500. FOB Seattle. In addition to the distinct power plant it will be necessary to have wire, sockets, lights, switches and paraphernalia to instal the same; also the expense of the freight charges Seattle to Hoonah. This complete outfit crated he estimates will weigh in the neighborhood of 1200 lbs. For these excess necessities in the way of equipment, together with the freight, to Hoonah, he will charge \$40. to cover total expense of same. The excess equipment mentioned he estimates at about \$20. and the freight at about \$20. minimum, but if either of these are more than that he will pay it himself.

This means that it will cost \$540. to deliver FOB Hoonah Alaska one Model JR-1 KW Matthews Full Automatic Electric Light & Power Plant. A discount of \$145. on the power plant and a charge of \$40. as above mentioned.

He also says that he will change the automatic switch board to a semi-automatic, with hand control, so that the engine may be started by the pushing of a button or the throwing of a switch; this he will dogratis.

Now as to payment on above. I told Mr. Cunningham we had no money to pay for this at this and might not have any before the 1st of March but that this plant was needed this winter, right now, very badly and asked him what he could do. Mr. Cunningham



BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, U. S. A.  
SYNOD OF WASHINGTON

PHONE ELLIOTT 3905

SEATTLE,

2

OFFICE

524 LEARY BUILDING

A. B. KEELER, SUPT.

CENTRAL & WESTERN WASHINGTON

instructs me to say to you that the Pacific Net & Twine Co will be very glad to extend to you a courtesy of March 1st. <sup>1923</sup> as payment date for the above named purchase, ship immediately, for they now have one of these in stock, the full equipment to Hoonah, charges prepaid, and will ask no money, neither interest on any money until such a time as above indicated; namely, March 1st, 1923. You will recognize that the price quoted would naturally be cash. It looks to me as tho we are getting the total rebate of at least \$150. minimum and I do not <sup>know</sup> where or when we can get a better offer than this. This type of material is not eligible for reduction in the market very soon.

The decision in this matter is yours to make, not mine. but I want to add this personal word, if it is worth anything, and will help Mr. Beck have to use this winter what he surely needs; and that is, ~~this~~, I am willing to undertake to raise the \$540. this winter when I am east, and have it paid personally to you that you may reimburse Mr. Cunningham - or rather, the Pacific Net & Twine Co. I mentioned to Mr. Cunningham the possibility of my being east after the middle of January, and that I will be willing to put this much into it. Mr. Cunningham will hold this machine until he hears definitely from you. If you believe this is all right, Mr. Banks, and authorize it, the above proposition is good. I have every confidence in Mr. Cunningham's word as to what he will do. The Pacific Net & Twine CO. are recognized among the very best in their line in the western United States, and can be depended upon.

*affs.*  
Sincerely yours,

*A B Keeler*



BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, U. S. A.

SYNOD OF WASHINGTON

PHONE ELLIOTT 3905

SEATTLE,

OFFICE

524 LEARY BUILDING

A. B. KEELER, SUPT.

CENTRAL & WESTERN WASHINGTON

My dear Mr. Banks:

It occurs to me since writing you regarding the price for the light and power plant as offered by Mr. Cunningham that it might be possible for you to secure the appropriation of \$500 from the Board of Church Erection. If so, my offer would not be worthy of a consideration and it might be better to see what could be done thru Dr. Wylie first, before considering the last part of my letter. If there is any letter that I could write Dr. Wylie to help you in securing this money, and you will direct me in the same I will be only too glad to do it. I wouldn't rob the Board of Church Erection the joy of contributing to this worthy cause.

Very sincerely yours,

*A. B. Keeler.*

ABK B

*Am going to Nash vs Calif*

*Foot Ball Game to-day -*

*Pres Amster church Sunday*

*after 5:00 for Home Broom Dept.*

*Rev & Mrs Story left this a.m. for Hake Alaska  
Southern off at the Boat*



BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS  
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
156 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK

WILTON MERLE-SMITH, PRESIDENT  
JOHN A. MARQUIS, GENERAL SECRETARY  
BAXTER P. FULLERTON, SECRETARY  
JOHN MCDOWELL, SECRETARY  
WILLIAM ROBERT KING, SECRETARY  
VARIAN BANKS, TREASURER

August 1, 1922.

Re: Hoonah, Alaska, Manse

Rev. David G. Wylie, D.D., Secretary,  
The Board of the Church Erection Fund,  
Building.

Dear Dr. Wylie:

The Board of Home Missions at its meeting held November 16th authorized application to be made to your Board for a grant of \$4,000. for a new manse building at Hoonah, Alaska for the use of Rev. George J. Beck.

The present manse building is of no value to anyone in Hoonah and cannot be longer used safely as a residence during the winter months if we give proper consideration to the comfort of Mr. and Mrs. Beck. Upon the present manse building your Board, years ago, made a grant of \$700. This building was too cheaply constructed due to the limited amount of money available at the time it was built, when Rev. George E. Good was the missionary at Hoonah.

Having visited Alaska this past summer it was my privilege to investigate the conditions in several of the villages in Southeastern Alaska occupied by the Board as mission stations. At Hoonah I learned that Mr. Beck and his wife are unable to keep comfortable during the cold weather; at times they have to move the dining table into the sitting room where the stove is located in order to have any comfort during meals, and after the food is stone cold, before the meal is half over, the only comfort secured is that their backs are warm. This distressful condition I learned from others in Alaska. has been suffered by Mr. Beck and his wife, without complaint, for the past three years. I personally looked over the house and found that all that was said about the inadequacy of it for cold winter weather was justified. I can, therefore, from personal knowledge of this matter, heartily recommend the enclosed application for your favorable consideration.

The Board is planning to put into the waters of Southeastern Alaska a second and larger boat in order to care for the urgent needs of the various missions there, inasmuch as the only mode of travel is by boat. It will, ~~therefore~~, be necessary to have a shop in which replacements or repairs may be made on either boat. It is, therefore, proposed to use the lumber from the present manse building to erect a woodshed and repair shop in which the present mission boat "Lois" and the proposed new boat can be repaired at any time needed.

It should be stated that Mr. Beck has, on two occasions, made additions to the present manse building through personal labor and expense. Whatever amount he has expended on the building he cheerfully relinquishes that the absolutely needed woodshed and repair shop may be provided.

It will be noted that the enclosed application is for a much smaller sum than that approved by our Board. Through the cooperation of Rev. A. B. Keeler



Rev. David G. Wylie, D.D. - page 2.

of Seattle the interest of a lumber merchant was obtained and a very low price secured for the required amount of lumber upon the basis of a modest building. A considerable sum was saved by Mr. Keeler through the concession obtained. The amount asked for in the enclosed application will provide for the new manse fully completed and for an absolutely necessary lighting system for both the Church and manse. The natives of Hoonah are, at their own expense, providing the material and labor for a much needed enlargement of the Hoonah Church and this necessitates the installation of a new lighting system. Mr. Beck made a very sensible suggestion that a lighting system could be installed at a very low expense that would be of use for both the Church and manse and the cost for such a lighting system is included in the enclosed application.

It is rare indeed that so much care and forethought is expended in any building as has been shown in this case, the effort on the part of all those connected with the proposed new building, being to keep the cost down to bedrock.

Under these circumstances I am sure that your Board will give sympathetic consideration to this application.

Sincerely yours,

VB MG

Treasurer

Enc.



November 17th, 1922.

Re: Hoonah, Alaska

Rev. David G. Wylie, D.D., Secretary,  
The Board of the Church Erection Fund,  
Building.

Dear Dr. Wylie:

The Board of Home Missions at its meeting held yesterday approved the enclosed application for a grant of \$4,000 for a new building to be erected for the use of Rev. George J. Beck of Hoonah.

The present building, upon which you have already made a grant was too cheaply constructed, due to the limited amount of money available at the time it was built, when Rev. George E. Good was the missionary at Hoonah. Through a personal visit to Hoonah this summer I learned that Mr. Beck and his wife are unable to keep comfortable during the cold weather, and that at times they have to move the dining table near to the stove in the sitting room in order to have some comfort during meals. The present manse building is of no value and cannot be longer used as a residence during the winter months if we give proper consideration to the comfort of Mr. and Mrs. Beck.

It is proposed to use the lumber from the present manse building to erect a wood shed and repair shop in which the Mission boat "Lois" can be repaired during the time when it is out of commission.

The Board also proposes to put into the waters of Southeastern Alaska a still larger boat in order to care for the present needs of the various missions there, inasmuch as a boat is the only mode of travel. It will, therefore, be necessary to have a shop in which replacements may be made on either boat.

Mr. Beck writes that he does not need a five or six thousand dollar house because there are no educational facilities at Hoonah and no man with a family could remain there long. He, therefore, modestly suggests a small cottage which it has been estimated will cost not more than \$4,000. This application represents a peculiar and pressing need and the favorable consideration of your Board is earnestly hoped for.

Sincerely yours,

VB MG

Treasurer

Enc.



*Hoonah Prop*

Hoonah, Alaska.  
Nov. 17th. 1922.

Mr. Varian Banks, Treasurer,  
Board of Home Missions, Presbyterian Church.  
156 Fifth Ave. New York City.

My Dear Mr. Banks:-

Your letter and telegram both arrived this morning, (our telegrams all come by mail you know) I will get the pictures as soon as possible and do all in my power to hold up my end of the work in hand. We have a blue print of the last official survey of the 15.16 acres of which the Board has the patent. The lower part of the tract is cut up into lots of 50 by 100 feet all staked and numbered so there will be no difficulty in assigning them and no danger of overlapping. There will be no additional cost for surveying. As soon as I can get the films I will send you a blue print or a tracing of the whole tract. We have enough ground staked now to answer for some time to come and when that is taken up I have instruments to layout other lots as they are needed without additional expense and I assure you every thing will be done very carefully and according to law. I do not know that I can add anything that will help, you have all the details in hand and I am sure the Board will settle this matter in the wisest way for this property matter is one of the greatest of the many problems of mission work in Alaska.

The point you make about the larger boat taking the place of many chapels and manses in the camps is a very good one and this fall our people have had extra work at the mines and government road work so that many of them have not come in as early as usual and the need for the larger boat and an extra man has been greater than ever.

We have the frame up for the addition to the church we were talking of last summer and we have a wonderfully dark place to put that Delco System in. Two hundred and seventy was the attendance at church last Sunday.

Our first winter came the day before yesterday, it is quite cold and about eight inches of snow is on the ground. One item of my work the church knows very little about is snow shoveling the decks of the Lois must be kept clear.

Just received a fine long letter from Mrs. Penfield Sr. Thornton is doing well and expects to be home for Thanksgiving but on crutches, poor fellow.

We are very busy at this time meetings of some kind every day of the week. Much is going on and the people are starting into the winters work with vigor.

With kindest regards to all

Most cordially yours

*George J. Duck*



*Copy sent to  
Smyth*

November 17th, 1922.

Re: Hoonah, Alaska Property

Rev. George J. Beck,  
Hoonah, Alaska.

Dear Mr. Beck:

I sent you a wire last night hoping to save some valuable time requesting that photographs of the various houses erected by some of your Indians on the Board's land be forwarded, together with the films.

The Executive Council approved of the proposition which we agreed to when I was in Alaska and as submitted to them, and our Finance Committee likewise approved of the plan to give deeds to the men now occupying land and to those who would erect houses on land assigned them within one year. This was presented to the Board yesterday but some of the old objections were made, such as the fear that whites would get hold of the property sometime after an Indian became discouraged or ready to sell his holdings for a stipulated sum and some other objections were made. It was finally decided to refer the matter back to the Executive Council. I am inclined to think that a more thorough consideration of this proposition by the Council will result in a unanimous approval of the recommendation made. I am to see Mr. Carneochan, our General Counsel, in a few days on this matter after which the Executive Council will take it up and make a report of its findings to the next meeting of the Board which will be held on December 14th.

I took the precaution yesterday at the adjournment of the Board meeting to ask the Board members to stay just for a few moments while I exhibited three or four slides of the pictures I took while at Hoonah in order that they might understand the lay of the country for their information when this matter is finally considered and I think it changed the ideas of one or two of the men who opposed the giving of title to the Indians.

In my letter to you concerning this I wrote that the Executive Council had approved of the proposed transfers and that the Finance Committee would undoubtedly give their approval. This has been done as stated but the snag came at the Board meeting. I think it would, therefore, be well to make no further mention of this matter to any of the Indians until I can send you the definite decision of the Board.

You have, evidently and naturally, assumed that everything is all right as indicated by your letter of October 27th, recently received, in which you wrote "Please send the deeds for those lots as soon as possible." This is all that you wrote regarding this matter which indicates that you failed to realize what we are up against. In the first place, we need to have the plats of 100' x 100' clearly shown and numbered so that they can be described definitely. We need the name of the men to whom the deed is to be given and also, what is of minor importance, it is necessary that those who occupy land at the present time on which houses have been erected need to understand that whatever expense may be incurred in connection with the transfer of these titles, will have to be borne by the resident. This



November 17th, 1922.

3)03:

expense will be small, it is true, but it is necessary to have this understood. I will write you more fully regarding this matter after the conference had with our General Counsel and when the Executive Council reached a definite conclusion. I can assure you that I will do my utmost to bring about favorable decision by the Board and I think such result will eventually be secured. It certainly was far better to have the Board refer this matter back to the Executive Council than to have them absolutely refuse to adopt the recommendation submitted. Had I pressed the matter too hard at the Board meeting the latter result would have been reached.

I am making application to the Board of Church Erection for a grant of \$4,000 for a new building for the use of yourself and wife. I wish that you had given me some helpful figures or information regarding the new building, viz: as to the comparative size you have in mind and its approximate cost. When you confine your communication on this subject to stating "Neither Mrs. Beck nor myself believe a five or six thousand dollar house is needed at this station" we do not get very far. I do not know whether you can put up a cottage such as you can be comfortable in for \$4,000, including cost of the lighting system for Church and manse. I am taking a chance that \$4,000 will be sufficient, hence, the application to the Board of Church Erection for grant of that amount was approved by our Finance Committee and the Board.

Bearing in mind your plea that you desire the installation of a lighting system in both Church and manse for use this winter, in view of the prospective erection of a new manse, I have gotten together such data as is possible regarding the cost of a lighting system and have found that either one of two systems, the Delco Light or the Matthews Full Automatic would cost about \$550. F.D.B. Hoonah. I submitted this matter to the Finance Committee at its meeting on the 15th inst. and they approved the purchase of the selected system with the understanding that we would eventually be reimbursed by the Board of Church Erection by the receipt of the expected grant.

I had a long letter yesterday from Mr. Keeler giving full details of the Matthews Full Automatic System recommended by Mr. Cunningham, and in reply I have written Mr. Keeler that after comparing the merits or advantages of the two systems he is authorized, after conference with Mr. Cunningham, to order the one that would seem best suited to your needs and to send it on. I am sure that you will be pleased with this news and that you will be able to install this lighting system before the winter is over. It guess it is pretty late now to get any use from this lighting system in the early part of the winter. I advised Mr. Keeler that it would not be necessary to send up any great amount of distilled water inasmuch as melted snow will meet your needs, providing it is not as you, of course, know kept in metal vessels. I know one man in my town who secures all his distilled water for the battery in his automobile by putting out an earthen dish every time it rains.

Please keep in mind that I am ready to do everything I can for the work and the workers in Alaska and where I fail to do all that you wish or anticipate it will not be due to a failure to do all I can in every possible way.

I am as much disappointed as you will be over the refusal of the Board to carry out your cherished wish but I think that the Board, not later than its next



Rev. George J. Beck - page 2.

November 17th, 1922.

meeting will take favorable action in which event I will rejoice as much as you.

With kindest regards to Mrs. Beck, I am

Sincerely yours,

VB MG

Treasurer



November 25th, 1922.

Re: Hoonah, Alaska

Rev. George J. Beck,  
Hoonah, Alaska

Dear Mr. Beck:

The securing of the desired grant from the Board of Church Erection for your new manse is still in my heart and mind, and desiring to have a specific report from you I have referred back to my letter to you of the 17th inst. in which I stated that application was being made to the Board of Church Erection for a grant of \$4,000. I also expressed the wish that you would give me some helpful figures as to the approximate cost of the smaller building which you think will answer your purpose. Fearing that you might think the latter is unnecessary in view of my statement that application was being made I now write to say that I want as definite information from you as you can give in order that I may know the exact amount that will be required to provide for the new manse building, fully completed and equipped, including the lighting system for both Church and manse.

Up to this date I have not made application as I stated for the reason that if the Board of Church Erection called upon me to substantiate my statement that \$4,000 will be needed and reliable figures are asked for I will be unable to respond other than to say "that is what I think it will cost" and that will not be sufficiently definite.

In all matters concerning properties please be very careful to write me as much in detail and as definitely as you can. In your letters regarding these things it would do no harm to assume that I know about these matters only in general, and therefore, you must feel that I depend upon you for as much detailed information as it is possible to give. I frankly make this suggestion because I am confident you do not realize how much help you can give along these lines which we sorely need.

My final judgment is that no application should be made to the Church Erection Board until we know just where we stand and have the data as a basic reason for making the application. I will await your specific reply before sending in this application.

Sincerely yours,

VB MG      Treasurer



BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, U. S. A.  
SYNOD OF WASHINGTON

PHONE ELLIOTT 3905

SEATTLE,

November 29, 1922.

OFFICE

524 LEARY BUILDING

A. B. KEELER, SUPT.

CENTRAL & WESTERN WASHINGTON

Mr. Varian Banks,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Banks:

HOONAH, ALASKA.

1. Mr. Cunningham informs me by phone that he is shipping out at this time complete lighting equipment, as specified in the bill of lading which you will receive, and he tells me that the plant works simply fine. They tried it out in the shop and he says they are highly pleased with it and believes that Mr. Beck will be very well satisfied. The guarantee in service behind that equipment is certainly worth something, as well as the instrument itself. I believe it is A-1.

2. Hoonah Manse. I spent the day yesterday, closing at midnight, in company with Mr. A. G. Hansen, manager and owner of the White River Lumber Company. This day was entirely in the interests of the manse, so badly needed at Hoonah. I went as carefully into the details as possible and tried to impress upon Mr. Hansen's mind that the Board of Home Missions would <sup>not</sup> have a dollar of money in their treasury for this building; that it would practically have to be raised outside of the Board of Home Missions, and what would be available to secure would be very minimum - perhaps enough to take care of the freight bill from Seattle to Hoonah.

He figured a bill of lumber to erect a house 24 x 26 said bill of lumber weighing approximately 11 to 12 tons. Roughly estimated, the freight on this would be \$250. With what he can donate, he thinks he can deliver that bill of lumber for the entire house (this does not include brick for chimney, windows, doors and wall board, which four items would cost ~~for~~ possibly \$135.00) f.o.b. Seattle, for a little less than \$300. He is having his carpenter and architect draw up a plan of a house, secure exact dimension specifications, make gift as he desires and send me an estimate of cost of all ~~other~~ material used (with the exception of the above named) to the full completion of the building, in a few days.

*writing to*  
~~I think~~ I can get the Seattle Hardware Company to donate the hardware for this manse.

Mr. Hansen also told me that he would give me an introduction in Seattle which would buy at cost price the windows and doors, so that they would not cost us to exceed \$3.00 each. The hardware might cost \$20.00 for the whole house; possibly cost nothing.

I am inclined to believe that \$750.00 will put that manse at Hoonah f.o.b. It should not cost over \$250. to build it, if a local



BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, U. S. A.  
SYNOD OF WASHINGTON

PHONE ELLIOTT 3905

SEATTLE,

2

OFFICE

524 LEARY BUILDING

A. B. KEELER, SUPT.

CENTRAL & WESTERN WASHINGTON

carpenter can be secured, with what assistance Mr. Beck can give him. This is not an elaborate house, of course, but the material will all be dry lumber; no green stuff whatever. Mr. Hansen said he would take every stick of the material out from the shed thoroly dry and seasoned, and that is worth something.

His estimate will include building paper for double flooring keeping the house warm and comfortable.

I feel Mr. Hansen's interest can be directed usefully in his line of wholesale business and will be worth more to us than a gift of \$200 or \$300. towards the Home Board debt, and it seemed to me better business to do this and secure a real interest in so doing and give him the privilege of contributing in a line with which he is familiar and in which he is interested.

If this is worth further correspondence, I will await your pleasure in the matter. As soon as his estimates are here, will forward them on to you.

Very sincerely yours,



ABK B



Hoonah, Alaska

December 4th, 1922.

Rev. A. B. Keeler,  
Seattle, Alaska

Dear Mr. Keeler:

I am rejoiced over the results you have secured thus far in your conference with Mr. A. G. Hanson, manager and owner of the White River Lumber Company. According to the approximate figure which you named it would seem that the total cost of the Hoonah manse will come well within the amount which we can reasonably expect to obtain from the Board of Church Erection.

That Mr. Beck may have cause for an unusually merry Christmas I have sent him a copy of your letter with advice that as soon as you secure final estimates from Mr. Hanson and place them in my hands, I would probably be able to secure prompt action and give a definite reply. If this letter is received before you send the estimates I wish you would let me know approximately, of course, the amount which in effect Mr. Hanson will contribute towards this building. I ask for this information that I may in making application to the Board of Church Erection state that the total cost of the building will be so much, of which we already have in hand so much. There will be no difficulty whatever in securing, at least, \$1,000. from the Board of Church Erection, especially if the balance of the complete cost is provided elsewhere. I agree with you that it is good business to secure the interest and cooperation of Mr. Hanson in this matter and I will back you up in whatever tentative negotiations you enter into with every hope of being able to confirm what you have done in this matter.

I may add that Mr. Beck in a letter to me a short time ago stated that he did not need a five or six thousand dollar house. I should think a house 24 x 26 would be ample for his needs as not only will it answer his purpose so long as he remains at Hoonah but it will be sufficient accommodation for his successor inasmuch as no man with a family can remain long at Hoonah because of no educational facilities being at hand. A man might stay there with a family of say two children, but when they got to school age he would have to seek a field elsewhere.

Regarding the lighting system for the Hoonah Church and manse - whatever you and Mr. Cunningham have decided upon is most acceptable and is now confirmed inasmuch as you have had all the facts in hand regarding the merits of the two systems and your joint recommendation in this matter can be readily approved. Mr. Beck will always be gratified in having had opportunity to meet you and to have enlisted your helpful service in his behalf. I am sure you will have a letter of appreciation from him in due season.

I hope you will be successful in your conference with the Seattle Hardware Company. I will hold up application to the Board of Church Erection until all facts are in hand.

I heartily congratulate you.

Most sincerely yours,



December 4th, 1922.

Re: Hoonah, Alaska

Rev. George J. Beck,  
Hoonah, Alaska

Dear Mr. Beck:

I am glad to learn that at this season of the year letters and telegrams are practically one and the same thing so far as Hoonah is concerned. I look forward with a good deal of anticipation to receiving the pictures that I asked you for. It will be of great help to the Board if I can produce in a colored slide at a Board meeting a picture of the houses that have already been erected on the Board's land at Hoonah. The modesty and yet neatness of these homes should at once appeal to the Board in such a way as to largely affect their final decision. The secretaries are all away at Kansas City, Mo. this week but upon their return next week I will take up this Hoonah matter for a preliminary discussion in order that the Council may come to a unanimous conclusion. I have been so sanguine that all would be well in this matter and was so dumfounded when the Board, under the leadership of a member who did not grasp the situation, decided to refer the matter back to the Executive Council for further consideration that I will not attempt to prophecy any further. Far from being discouraged I feel very hopeful and, therefore, suggest that you just keep a stiff upper lip until a final decision is reached. In the event that the Executive Council takes affirmative action on the proposition to deed to Indians, without cost, plots of ground upon which to erect their homes, I will be unable to advise you definitely until after our Board meeting to be held on the 14th inst. I will send you a telegram as soon as final decision is reached in the hope that such a message will reach Seattle in time to go forward by a mail earlier than would a letter.

I had the pleasure of meeting Thornton Panfield last Tuesday. I was giving a talk on Alaska to the friends on this floor and he was to come down to be one of my hearers but was so delayed that he did not get into our Assembly Room until about five minutes before I ceased. I am having other slides made of some pictures which Thornton took which I did not have, and expect to present same at my own home Church.

Before this you will have received my letter concerning the lighting system. I hope that Mr. Keeler with the cooperation of Mr. Cunningham has been able to start something in the hope that before the winter is over you will have installed the lighting system and enjoyed its use.

I am awaiting your definite reply to my letter asking for specific data concerning your new manse. The one difficulty that is attendant upon the securing of a grant from the Board of Church Election is that they want the Board of Home Missions to follow past procedure, viz: to furnish one-half the cost. If they insist upon this 50-50 proposition it will, I fear, prove a stickler for the present as we have no money in sight that will be available for buildings.

If this letter is received before you attempt to take pictures of



December 4th, 1922.

the houses I wish you would include one of the temporary arrangement which you have erected for the docking of the "Lois" at high tide so that when low tide comes you can work on the bottom of the hull. I should like to have such a picture to illustrate the primitive methods which you had to employ for purpose of making necessary repairs. This will considerably help your argument that you need the lumber from the old manse to erect a needed building in which to repair the "Lois" and the other two expected boats.

Give my kindest regards to Mrs. Beck.

Very sincerely yours,

VB MG *George J. Beck* Treasurer

P.S. - Since dictating the foregoing I have received a letter from Mr. Keeler, copy of which I enclose. You will see that it contains good news. If the estimate submitted is correct and the specifications are satisfactory which I am sure will be the case in view of the fact that it is almost a gift, there should be no trouble in securing from the Board of Church Erection the necessary amount of cash to provide for the full building.

Mr. Keeler states that as soon as the estimates referred to are given him he will forward them to me. I am replying that he has taken the right track and commending his fine interest in this particular need and advising that we will hope to be able to close this matter up promptly just as soon as Mr. Hanson makes a definite statement. The approximate cost of this building being so much lower, I think we will have no difficulty in securing the required amount from the Board of Church Erection. I recall reply John Willard made when at Sitka, to my request that he be patient a little longer and I thought that the assigning of a plot 100'x 800' to each of the men who already had buildings thereon would be agreed to by the Woman's Board; and that reply was "We have waited 23 years and I guess we can wait a little longer." I guess you have had need of a new home for so long that a few months more delay will not disturb you. It looks as though your hopes in this direction will soon be realized. I wish it were July instead of December as then we could probably arrange for the erection of the building before cold weather set in. It is already upon you and I fear you will have to do the best you can for this winter. I will write you, however, about this as soon as something more definite can be had.



December 9th, 1922.

Re: Hoonah, Alaska

Rev. A. B. Keeler:  
Seattle, Washington

Dear Mr. Keeler:

Enclosed find check for \$543.71 to the order of the Pacific Net & Twine Company for their bill of December 1st for electrical equipment shipped to Brother Beck of Hoonah. I am sending this check through you that you may know it has been promptly paid and also to say that bill for freight, which I assume was prepaid, has not been sent me. Check for this latter will be forwarded just as soon as I know the amount. If, perchance, the shipment was made with transportation charges collect, then wire me amount and I will send check to Beck at once, as I am sure he will not have enough money to advance this cost.

This shipment apparently includes a goodly supply of necessities and, as you say, should place in Mr. Beck's possession a full supply of needs, and should make him as happy as any man in Southeastern Alaska. I had a letter from him recently in which he stated that they had pretty nearly completed the addition to their Church building which he told me of when I was at Hoonah, and that he had a fine dark place for the installation of the new lighting system. Mr. Beck thinks rightfully that when this new lighting system is installed the Church service will be made so much more attractive that opportunities for doing even a greater amount of good will be his.

It is a short day so I will write you no more in this letter.

Sincerely yours,

VB MC [Signature] Treasurer



December 11th, 1922.

Re: Hoonah, Alaska

Rev. George J. Beck,  
Hoonah, Alaska

Dear Mr. Beck:

Through the initiation of Rev. A. B. Keeler matters have not got to a point where a definite proposition is before the Board in connection with the new manse building for you. I have thought best, however, before moving ahead to refer to you the enclosed illustration of a small building 24' x 26' providing for two bedrooms, living room and kitchen. It is upon this building, I assume, that an estimate has been based of the required amount of lumber, etc. to erect the building. Before definitely accepting the offer of Mr. A. G. Hansen, owner and Manager of the White River Lumber Company, which offer is a splendidly generous one and will reduce the cost of the manse building considerably, I have thought best to refer this matter to you that your reaction may be obtained as to the building itself. I feel that you are in a better position to indicate what kind of building will not only meet your present needs, but be entirely satisfactory to your successor in the years to come. We want this time to be well assured that a tight, warm building is erected so that the occupants may be well protected against the rigorous winter climate.

If you have any suggestions to make in the way of any changes on the sample plan herewith submitted, please draw up a rough sketch of what you have in mind showing size of the rooms that you recommend and in the event this will materially change the amount of material needed, you can then resubmit the matter to Mr. Keeler for presentation to Mr. Hansen that final and definite bill of lumber may be made up and forwarded. I would suggest that you reply to this letter direct to Mr. Keeler, 524 Leary Bldg., Seattle, Washington. Mr. Keeler will, as soon as his time permits, take up the matter with Mr. Hansen anew and will let me know what the final decision is which will then put me in a position to secure definite action at once.

If the lumber and all material required for the new manse building is sent up during February, can you secure the right kind of help to put up the building in time for use by the first or middle of May. Maybe this is expecting too much. Let Mr. Keeler know about this also.

Wishing you and Mrs. Beck a most happy Christmas, and that the advent of the new lighting system and prospective new manse will make the year 1923 the happiest in your lives,

Yours very sincerely,



December 12th, 1922.

Re: Hoonah, Alaska, Manse

Rev. A. B. Keeler,  
Seattle, Washington

Dear Mr. Keeler:

You have made splendid progress in the matter of the Hoonah manse and I only wish it were possible to send you an indefinite acceptance at this time. On looking at the pictured cottages, on the basis of which Mr. Hansen's proposition is made, it has occurred to me that this building may not be just the thing that Mr. Beck will need. I, therefore, think it would be advisable to refer the matter to Mr. Beck for his approval of the proposed manse building, so that if it is not quite large enough or can be a little differently arranged for his better convenience, he should have the opportunity to give us his reaction. Beck is a sensible, modest and practical man, and I know that he is just as desirous of keeping the cost of the new manse down as we are. He has already stated that he does not need a \$6,000. building. I am, therefore, writing to Mr. Beck by this same mail requesting that he look over the plan which I am sending him received from you, and to write you direct his conclusions with any suggested changes that he cares to make.

In the meantime, can you assure Mr. Hansen that we both appreciate and gratefully accept his splendid offer and that the definite order will be given just as soon as we receive final word from Mr. Beck. I agree with you that we must not let this opportunity to keep the cost of the new Hoonah manse down to a minimum, pass by, and that we should assure Mr. Hansen that when once a definite decision is reached as to the quantity of lumber required, in harmony with the plan as finally decided upon, an order for the shipment will be given. Mr. Hansen, will doubtless, appreciate the fact that it is better to know just where we are going to land before we make the jump, and you will both agree with me that it would be unfortunate to plan a building that would not be entirely suited to the Alaskan climate. Therefore, I believe it wisest to await Beck's final word in the matter.

Now, I learned yesterday that Dr. Wylie had received a telegram from you stating that you had cut the cost of the manse down to \$750. and that a \$500. grant would be all that was required. I am sorry that you took this step for the very simple reason that you have raised hopes which cannot be realized. The manse building cannot be erected for any such sum as you name, nor for even \$1,000. In the first place, you have overlooked the cost for the lighting system which we need to obtain from the Board of Church Election as part of the manse equipment, and, assuming that the present heating plant in the old manse building can be utilized in the new building, we have got to provide for lighting fixtures, for labor in construction of the building, and the installation of the heating and plumbing. Mr. Beck will, undoubtedly, arrange to personally install the lighting system without cost. So, upon a fuller review of this situation I cannot see how we can very well expect to erect the new manse building for much less than \$1500. If this latter sum is necessary, you can readily see the effect it will have upon Dr. Wylie's mind



Rev. A. B. Keeler - page 2. December 12th, 1922.

because of your telegram naming a much smaller sum.

I have prepared and am ready to deliver to Dr. Wylie full information regarding this building and what use is to be made of the lumber in the old manse building. As you know, they need a repair shop and wood shed very badly at Hoonah and Mr. Beck writes that every stick in the old manse can be used to advantage.

To recapitulate: When all the facts are before me so that we will know the probable maximum cost of the building entirely completed, I will make application to the Board of Church Erection on authority of the Board already given for the required amount. I will let you know the moment this point is reached. I strongly hope that Mr. Hansen will approve the wisdom of knowing what there are at before we make a final decision. I will, of course, leave it to your good offices to express with the fact that we deeply appreciate and gratefully accept his offer to be modified in accordance with such recommendations as Mr. Beck will send in.

Ever sincerely yours,

VB MG



COPY.

Hoonah, Alaska  
December 30th, 1922

Mr. Varian Banks, Treasurer,  
Presbyterian Board of Home Missions,  
156 Fifth Ave., New York City.

My dear Mr. Banks:-

This is a letter full of gratitude to God, the Board, Mr. Keeler and yourself. It has been a wonderful Christmas season, so many of our dreams have come true. The great little lighting plant is working out so beautifully. By hard work it was installed for all the Christmas festivities and the people were delighted. Our plans that I mentioned to you last summer about an addition to the church have been fulfilled. The church will now hold nearly the entire town and every day someone comes in and hands me anywhere from fifty cents to five dollars to pay for the lumber used in the construction I have almost the required amount on hand. Our church is filled at every service and we have a great many of them.

Now as to the manse the plans sent are real cosy. If Mrs. Beck and myself were the only ones to be considered we could curl up and be the happiest persons in the world. All we want is to be warm and snug. But it is not Mrs. Beck and myself we are working for, we are "Public Characters". The manse belongs to the town, we are leading the people into a new life. The choir of from sixteen to twenty meet here to practice, the womens societies meet with Mrs. Beck, sometimes forty and fifty strong. The men are coming in at all times for help and religious and business matters. The building should be an inspiration to them in a modest architectural way and the inside should be large enough to do the work required of it. The missionary should have a study or really an office. I suppose there are home missionaries who do not get near the people and just hold the regular services in the church but I can't work that way. Monday night was the regular meeting of the Alaska Native Brotherhood I was appointed to give them special instruction in Parliamentary law. Tuesday a town meeting was held in the new town hall to nominate candidates for councilmen to be elected next month, I had to be there. Thursday another business meeting to discuss the new law the big interests are trying to put over whereby all the fishing grounds will be placed under the control of one man at Washington who knows nothing about fishing. I was appointed to draft resolutions to send to our delegate at Washington, D.C. Friday a meeting of the stockholders of the Hoonah Cooperative Store I had to explain to them all the ins and outs of the business. Every day I help them make out orders, take charge of the money, trace up lost shipments and rectify mistakes made by outside firms they do business with. I must have an office to keep all this business in. Some say I do too much for the natives but we are getting them into the christian life and keeping them there. We are trying by the grace of God to show the people they must have Christ in their business or they will not succeed.



Re: Hoonah, Alaska Manse.

Mr. Banks, No. 2.

Yesterdays mail brought a request from Mr. Waggoner that I take the Lois to Juneau next month and carry Dr..Young and himself to Angoon to organize the new church there then take lumber to Kake to put the A. L. Lindsey in shape to tow to Seattle. The latter part of March I must take all the Presbytery to Bayview (the round trip being four hundred miles) to the spring meeting of Presbytery. How it will be possible to build that manse is more than I can see.

I dont think a six thousand dollar house is needed here. We are willing to make a sacrifice for the good of the service as we have done for so long. I sometimes feel the missionaries are losing the importance of sacrifice in their work, we want to put away the thought of the crucified Christ and only think of the triumphant entry, but if we are to do certain work we must have equipment. We are hoping to develop our boat work that we can live on the little ship all the year round, in that case someone else will live here.

We have all the fittings for a first class bathroom. There is no provision for such a room in the plans sent. We feel it will be much better to live on in the old building until such time as it will be possible to erect an adequate manse.

Trusting you will understand me in this matter and know that we are truly grateful for all the blessings received and wishing the very best things for the year before you I remain

Most cordially yours,

(Signed) Geo. J. Beck



Hoonah, Alaska.  
Jan. 12th. 1923.

Mr. Varian Banks, Treasurer.  
Board of Home Missions,  
Presbyterian Church.  
156 Fifth Ave. New York City.

My Dear Mr. Banks:-

Enclosed please find a few prints taken from buildings on the Mission ground. I am very sorry it has taken so long to get them and that they are not of better quality. It is not a question of how much a thing costs in this part of the world but the fact there is no one in town with a really good camera. This is the second time I have taken the pictures and sent them into Juneau to be developed and returned. When the time comes to have the deeds made out I will give you the numbers of the lots occupied but at the present time the snow is too deep to do much surveying. When the survey was made the lots were staked but no numbers marked on them, the only way to get them is to measure from the end lines which will not be hard to do when we get down to it.

The enclosed sketch I transferred from the original blue print I will try to get you one from the Forestry office soon but must keep the one I have that we will be sure to make no mistakes.

We are in the midst of a real blizzard and I hope it will blow itself out before we start for Kake. Just received a little paper from Rev. Story from Kake, I believe he is going to prove a real missionary. So far every thing we have heard about him from all sources is good.

The electric lights are growing brighter every day, ( I should say night)

With kindest regards to all

Most cordially yours

*Geo. J. Beck*



January 12th, 1923.

Re: Hoonah, Alaska

Rev. George J. Beck,  
Hoonah, Alaska

Dear Mr. Beck:

I am awaiting, at your convenience, the photographs of the buildings already erected by the natives on the Board's land at Hoonah. I am hoping that from what I have already said to you there will accompany these photographs as strong a presentation as you can make in support of the proposition to convey to the natives already having erected houses, and to those who desire to do so, deeds to the plots of ground which they may select with your approval. To make sure, however, that I can present as strong a case as possible, I think it would be well to state just what I presented to the Board and the reason given for their tentative action in order that you may realize the character of the obstacles in the way of a prompt affirmative action by the Board.

In presenting this matter to the Board I stated that the men who have already erected houses on the Board's land are citizens of the United States. They are unable to obtain land elsewhere in Hoonah on which to erect their homes. They recognize that the Board obtained the land for the benefit of the native Indians. I also stated to the Board that the natives feel that the missionary of the Board having induced them to give up their former way of living in communal houses would naturally expect the Board to be consistent with its teachings by affording these natives an opportunity, through the only outlet available, to erect houses on land which the Board acquired for the specific use of the missionaries in their work among the native people. I also stated to the Board that the men who had thus far erected buildings had been able to accomplish this through their commendable thrift and not because of their financial ability, and finally, that these natives very naturally desire to acquire full rights over the property they occupy in order that their heirs might enjoy undisturbed possession, stating in addition, that the natives did not desire a lease inasmuch as such a privilege would be no advantage over the present plan of suffering them to occupy and build on the Board's land. This, in a general way, is what I presented to the Board.

Now there is another question which I fear will be asked although it has not been mentioned up to date; namely, if the Indians are financially able to erect homes of their own, why are they not willing to pay for the land instead of asking the Board to give them free title. Will you kindly write me what your reply would be if that question were submitted to you.

I was unable, in the short time at my disposal, to convince the Board that the situation at Hoonah and elsewhere in Alaska was entirely different from the question of property among the Indians throughout our Western States. One point I did not make which I had in mind in reserve is that no Indian would be able to sell the land he received from the Board to a white man for the very evident reason that no white man would care to live in the midst of the Indians,



nor would he be welcomed there. Am I right as to this?

Dr. Marquis has taken this matter up with Mr. Carnochan, our General Counsel, with a view to ascertaining if a deed can be made with restrictions to apply not only to the Indian to whom the deed is given but to other Indians to whom he may convey the land. Now I have not forgotten the point that you made to me personally two or three years ago when in New York, that the Indian expects to be treated with the same consideration as the white man and that no white man would be asked to accept a deed with a string to it. On the other hand, I will have to make it very clear and as conclusive as possible, why we ask the white man to pay for his property and in the case of the Indian we are asked to give it to him. This question may arise - if the Indians who are citizens claim the rights of citizens why should they not be willing to assume the obligations of the white man as well, by buying their land the same as the white man does. This I do not present from myself but simply in anticipation of such a position being taken by some of the Board, and therefore, I want to be fortified to answer affectively such a question, if propounded.

You, of course, know that I am in full sympathy with your judgment that the Board should give to the Hoonah native men titles in fee simple and, therefore, you will appreciate that the foregoing statement is made for the specific purpose of giving you as full a knowledge as is possible of what I am up against, in order to secure from you as complete and convincing a statement of your own wishes and judgment in the matter as possible, in which I most heartily concur.

In answering this letter please carefully give me your reaction on every point I have raised. Please do not omit a single item as much depends upon your reply which I will take much pleasure in submitting and which I will gladly back up to the best of my ability.

By the way when your father was here I asked him to tell your daughter with the unpronounceable name (I don't attempt to spell it here because I don't know how) to call here as I would like to have her visit Mrs. Banks and me sometime. Unfortunately I did not make a memorandum of her address. Will you let me have it, giving me her full name spelled out.

Yours sincerely,

VB MG Treasurer



Rev. George J. Beck, - page 2. January 13th, 1923.

Dr. Wylie yesterday, are delighted to have Keeler represent them on the Coast and therefore, such recommendations as he may make will have great weight.

I am very, very glad for you and Mrs. Beck that you had such a delightful Christmas season and I was surely delighted to learn from your letter that the lighting plant was received in time to be installed for the Christmas festivities. That is fine! I shall see to it that Mr. Keeler is advised of your joy and that the occasion for it is due in no small measure, to his effective cooperation.

One thing more, which I should have referred to in its proper place, in submitting my rough plan for the proposed new manse, please be sure to note thereon that fittings for a bath room will not be needed in considering the new building.

Again I want to impress upon you the great importance of omitting no detail that will in any way relate to the new building, in letters which you may forward. As I have often said to the men, please write me as though I knew nothing whatever about the subject in hand so that some things which may not seem necessary for you to refer to will not be omitted, and as is often the case which will avoid any uncertainty on my given point.

With sincere regards to Mrs. Beck, I am

Sincerely yours,

VB:MG      Treasurer



January 15th, 1923.

Re: Hoonah, Alaska

Rev. George J. Beck,  
Hoonah, Alaska

Dear Mr. Beck:

This morning your letter of December 30th came to hand I do not want to let the opportunity pass by to promptly acknowledge your fine and helpful letter.

"When I saw the plan submitted through Mr. Keeler I knew at once that they were simply providing for a home for you and Mrs. Beck without any knowledge of the conditions you had to meet. The information you have given me makes it very clear that the new manse building should provide for something more than living and sleeping quarters and a bath room. Therefore, I will submit the matter anew to Mr. Keeler asking that he confer with Mr. Hansen, the lumber man, as to what lumber for a larger building will cost, the plans for which shall provide for a bath room, office, and for a room sufficiently large to be used for small assemblies. The latter item we may not be able to provide to as full an extent as you would like. The thought has occurred to me whether it would not be better to consider having the "Woman's Society when it reaches"40 and 50 strong" gather in the Church now that you have an electrical equipment which will make the church cheerful and attractive." This thought will occur to others, I fear, and therefore, the conclusion may be reached that the probably limited funds which we are hoping to ultimately secure will hardly provide for all the accommodations which you name. "Would not a room to permit of 15 or 20 be sufficiently large, and then when larger numbers are expected to attend could not the church be opened?"

I can say now that I feel fairly sure that we will be unable to secure from the Board of Church Erection any large sum. Just what that Board will be willing to grant can only be determined after all the facts are in their hands, and therefore, we need to have, in the light of the foregoing suggestions a rough plan of the house you feel will provide for everything that is absolutely essential and then secure definite estimates as to its cost.

I do not know whether you wrote direct to Mr. Keeler regarding this manse. That there may be no slip; however, I am sending him extracts from your letter so that he may consult with Mr. Hansen upon first opportunity. Mr. Keeler, by the way, resigned as field Superintendent for Western Washington as of January 1st, but he has not only offered, but I am sure that he will be glad, to help the Board of Home Missions in any way he can even though he is now connected with the Board of Church Erection. As a matter of fact, I believe that Mr. Keeler is now in a position to render more effective aid through his connection with the Board of Church Erection than ever before. If you have not already done so I would suggest that you keep in close touch with Mr. Keeler. Alaska is, I assume, part of his territory, and the Board of Church Erection, as I learned through



Hoonah, Alaska.  
Jan. 27th. 1923.

Mr. Varian Banks, Treasurer.  
Board of Home Missions.  
156 Fifth Ave. New York City.

My Dear Mr. Banks:-

Your good letter of Jan. 12th. received. In answer to question No. 1 I would say the photographs such as they were should be in your hands by this time.

No. 2. You show such perfect knoweledge of conditions when you say "the men who had thus far erected buildings had been able to accomplish this through their commendable thrift and not because of their financial ability, ect, ect". All this is fine and to the point. All I can do is to indorse it with all my heart.

No. 3. My reply to the matter of the Native objecting to pay for the land is this. Much of this land( as you know from personal observation) was cultivated by them years before the missionaries arrived.( fair sized spruce trees are growing in the ridges made by the natives in their agricultural activitie s before we aquired title with the understanding that we use the ground for the native, in other words hold it in trust for him until such time as he was ready to build a christian home and live in a civilized way. The property has never cost us a cent, it has been surveyed by the government free of cost and the native feels that what little money he can scrape together should be spent on his house and the clearing of his lots and not for ground that belonged to his father.

No. 4. A number of white men are willing not only to live" in the midst of the indians" but to marry the women and make them the mothers of their children, so that is no safe gaurd but the time for all such " leading string methods" is past. We have made citizens of our people and they must stand or fall as such.

No. 5. If ~~Dr. Marquis~~ succeeds in working up a deed with a single restriction to it it will be a sad day for the popularity of the Home Board in Hoonah. The white citizen does not pay a cent for his land in Alaska, it makes no difference whether it is a Homestead or a million dollar mine, he simply stakes it out. If he wants a claim belonging to someone else he must pay for it. The ground in question has always belonged to the native, we have only been holding it for him.

Now Mr. Banks this is very important. The Bureau of Education plan to build a house for the teachers about the first of March. They want a corner of the mission ground to build on, it is also the desire of the native people that the buildings should be placed in that locality. I have indorsed the proposition, and hope the Board can grant it at once for it will mean much for our work.

My daughters name is Kosseyia Beck. Most of her friends call her K. or Kay. She lives at 168 Sterling place Brooklyn N.Y.

Will it be possible to give us something definite on the ground for the Bureau by the first of March,

With kindest regards

Most cordially yours

Geo. J. Beck.

Our people look up  
an offering of about  
\$50 for Home Missions  
this morning and will  
take care of \$2.00 of  
my salary for the  
coming year  
and so



January 24th, 1923.

Re: Hoonah, Alaska

Rev. George J. Beck,  
Hoonah, Alaska

Dear Mr. Beck:

Your letter of the 12th inst. reached here on the 23rd, in which you enclosed pictures of the buildings erected by the natives on mission ground. You have given me exactly what I desire and with such other data as I have I trust to be able to make a conclusive presentation of the property matter so as to secure the longed for result which you have always hoped for. I shall be very glad indeed to send you the Board's final decision which I strongly hope will be in the affirmative.

Tomorrow I am to have my first luncheon with Thornton Penfield. While now going around on crutches he has taken off the big bag that he has been carrying around on his right foot which covered the plaster paris cast. He is now touching his foot to the ground and while it causes considerable pain it is simply a question of time when the stricken member will gradually resume its normal condition. I am hoping that he will get in such shape as will enable him to go around without difficulty in time to play that long looked for game of golf with me when the weather opens up this coming May. With snow on the ground around you and the ground here covered with anywhere from four to six inches of snow, it may sound a little strange to speak of the game of golf, but you know one of the attractive features of that game is anticipation. This never leaves the regular golf crank. He anticipates playing when he starts for the links and even if he plays poorly he looks forward to the next day when he hopes to improve over the previous days play and when the weather prevents, he hopes that the next day will be more favorable, and when the winter sets in he looks forward to the time when Spring will arrive. So you see it is one continual story of hope and anticipation.

You don't know how pleased it makes me feel to imagine the comfort and enjoyment you must have in the possession of the new lights. Not a little of my appreciation is due to the fact that your own people will realize in a very effective and practical way that their friends known as the Board of Home Missions, are not unmindful of their needs and worthiness, and I am sure that the pastor who ministers to these people and his wife will take no little comfort in the thought that their own consecration and devotion to the work committed to their care had not a little to do with the action of our Finance Committee in providing for these lights. I hope that as delightful a result may ensue in the matter of the property question. I guess you got me pretty good in your joking remark requesting me to send on the deeds. I should have known you better and realized that your remark was caused by your buoyant mind which is such a help to you in your ~~work~~ work.

The accident which befell Mr. Story is quite unfortunate and from what



January 29th, 1923.

he has written it would seem that he was lucky to escape an even more serious result.

Tell your good wife that I hope she makes another batch of biscuits very soon and that you both sit down and enjoy them to the full with the knowledge that if I were only there I would run you a close second as to numbers devoured.

I am looking forward to the time when I can send you word that the new manse building is assured. As you know, we cannot accomplish all things at one time, but before the year 1923 is past you will have unmistakable proof, I hope, that the Board of Home Missions is not composed of a very bad lot of fellows after all.

I presume that you receive the Presbyterian Magazine regularly, but to make sure and in case you might want an extra copy for reasons of your own, I am sending you the January 1923 issue, pages 14 to 16 of which will or should interest you. I had a letter from one of our ministers in the West stating that he had often wondered what kind of a looking animal I was and he now, having seen this issue of the Presbyterian Magazine, was glad to learn what I looked like. Maybe he thought, owing to the peculiarity of my first name, that I wore different clothes from those shown in the picture. He is not unlike a great many other people in that respect. You little knew when you stood still on your way to the boat with water that that picture would be sent to all parts of the United States. Penfield was not responsible for this, only indirectly. Knowing that he had a picture of you we secured the films from him of the three pictures shown in the magazine, and a very fair result was obtained.

With kindest regards to you and Mrs. Beck, I am

Sincerely yours,

VB MG Treasurer



MAR 22 1923

OFFICES OF CHIEF OF ALASKA DIVISION  
SUPPLY AGENT, AND DISBURSING AGENT

SUITE 1223 L. C. SMITH BLDG.  
TELEPHONE MAIN 851

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF EDUCATION, ALASKA DIVISION

ALASKA NATIVE SCHOOL, MEDICAL, AND REINDEER SERVICE

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

March 17, 1923.

*Beck is and all  
thought the  
new grant  
files to be*

Dr. John A. Marquis, Sec'y,  
Board of Home Missions of  
the Presbyterian Church,  
156 Fifth Ave.,  
New York City.

Dear Doctor Marquis:

For several years we have been hoping to add to our school plant at Hoonah. Reverend Beck and the native people of Hoonah have been quite impatient, and justly so, because of our apparent neglect of Hoonah.

We now plan to erect a teacher's cottage there, and make such alterations in the present residence and school building as will give us three or four good recitation rooms in it. Mr. Stansfield, our teacher there, and your Mr. Beck, have come to the conclusion that the only suitable place for a teacher's residence is immediately back of the school building, on one side of the large plot of ground belonging to the Mission. Superintendent Hawkesworth writes me that Mr. Beck and Mr. Stansfield have recommended that your Board transfer us the lots designated as Nos. 7, 9 and 11 on the rough draft of the plot enclosed, and the three lots immediately behind them, a tract 150 by 200 feet. If you can transfer these lots to us for this purpose we shall greatly appreciate it and will be able to make our plans immediately for the erection of the teacher's cottage and the alteration of the old building. The enclosed diagram is taken from the blue-prints made of the townsite by the Forestry Service when the town of Hoonah was surveyed a few years ago.

I regret that I was not able to see you when east this winter. My trip to Washington was more hurried than usual.

With best wishes to you, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

*W T Lopp*

Superintendent of Education  
of Natives of Alaska.

WTL:IMK



March 22nd, 1923.

Re: Hoonah, Alaska

Rev. A. B. Keeler,  
Seattle, Washington

My dear Arza:

So far as our records show it would appear that I am mistaken in my statement to you that the plan which you submitted to me as drawn up by Mr. Hansen's request has been forwarded to Mr. Beck for his review. I surely thought that I had written to Mr. Beck on this matter definitely. I find, however, that under date of January 15th I wrote to Mr. Beck as follows:

"When I saw the plan submitted through Mr. Keeler I knew at once that they were simply providing a home for you and Mrs. Beck without any knowledge of the conditions that you had to meet. The information you have given me makes it very clear that the new manse building should provide for something more than living and sleeping quarters and a bath room. Therefore, I will submit the matter anew to Mr. Keeler asking that he confer with Mr. Hansen, the lumber man, as to what lumber for a larger building will cost, the plans for which shall provide for a bath room, office, and for a room sufficiently large to be used for small assemblies. The latter item we may not be able to provide to as full an extent as you would like. The thought has occurred to me whether it would not be better to consider having the Woman's Society when it reaches '40 and 50 strong' gather in the Church now that you have an electrical equipment which will make the church cheerful and attractive. Would not a room to permit of 15 or 20 be sufficiently large, and then when larger numbers are expected to attend could not the church be opened?"

The above quotation is what I had in mind. I had supposed that the plan which you send me, made by Mr. C. M. Berg on the back of a White River Lumber Company billhead had been forwarded to Mr. Beck.

I am forwarding to Mr. Beck this time, without fail, by this same mail, a copy of the pencil sketch above referred to with the request that he indicate his approval of same if it will meet his needs, explaining that the original plan which he submitted is not feasible because of its greater cost and that, therefore, the amount granted by the Board of Church Erection, recently, through your kind cooperation, will not be sufficient to more than put up this substituted manse as per plan last submitted.

There is one thing which I have overlooked calling to your attention and it may affect the sufficiency of the grant made by the Board of Church Erection; namely, when I returned from the West, and upon special appeal of Mr. Beck the Finance Committee approved the advance from a small



Mr. A. B. Keeler - page 2 *March 22nd, 1923.*

fund we have, of \$543.71 to pay for the lighting plant which you negotiated and purchased for us. The approval of this advance was made upon condition that the Board would be ultimately reimbursed from an expected grant to be made for the total cost of the Hoonah Manse.

If the grant of \$2,000 which has now been made by your Board is merely to cover the cost of lumber and other materials, plus freight, then the Board of Church Erection will need to make an additional grant of \$500. or else I am in a hole.

I am sending to Mr. Brauer the usual Receipt and Agreement of the Board for the grant as it now stands requesting that but \$543.71 be paid now to reimburse us for this advance and that the balance of the grant will be called for when needed. It may be that when the manse is finally completed we will not need as much as \$2,500. In this event, we will only need to ask the Board of Church Erection to add the difference between the cost of the \$2,000 already granted. Before taking any further steps in this matter, however, I hope to have the opportunity of conferring with you personally so as to decide upon what further action is to be taken.

Now that the winter is over I do not believe we are going to gain anything by making haste although I assume that it is Mr. Beck's desire to have the manse erected by the Hoonah men before the annual fishing season arrives.

As soon as I receive Mr. Beck's reaction on the plan now going forward I will give a definite order to Mr. Hansen, either direct or through you, according to your whereabouts.

I sincerely hope that you and Adeline had a delightful journey westward and that you found Jeannette well and happy.

Sincerely yours,

VB MG *March 22nd, 1923.* Treasurer



March 23rd, 1923.

Bar Hoonah, Alaska

Mr. W.T. Lopp, Supt of Education,  
Bureau of Education, Alaska Division,  
Seattle, Washington

Dear Mr. Lopp:

Your letter of the 17th inst. addressed to Dr. Marquis has been received, concerning the matter of transferring to the Bureau of Education three lots for purpose of providing for enlargement of the school plant at Hoonah, Alaska.

You mention Lots No. 7, 9 and 11 on a rough draft which you enclose, covering tract of land 150' x 250'. I assume that consultation has been had with Rev. George J. Beck and that your request has previously received his approval. Mr. Beck, in a letter to this office under date of January 27th, 1923, recommended that a plot of ground be set apart for the Bureau of Education for the above purpose but he failed to mention either the size or location of the selected parcel.

Now, let me ask if it is desired that the Department of the Interior be given a deed by the Board, or whether a written consent to the use of the above-mentioned lots is all that is required. In the former event we will need to know if a rough draft which you submit was copied from a plot that is on file at Juneau so that we can refer to the official record in the deed of transfer to be executed. If this plot as surveyed by Ken Smith, Forest Examiner on June 7th to 14th, 1919 has been officially filed at Juneau, then, of course, the way is clear to execute a deed to a definite portion of the Board's holdings at Hoonah. In the latter event this letter may be taken as full consent by the Bureau of Education to occupy lots 7, 9 and 11 as per plot filed at Juneau, our Executive Council and the Finance Committee as well, having both approved the request of the Bureau of Education.

In the meantime, in either case, this letter will, I trust, be sufficient authority for you to proceed to the occupation of the above-mentioned lots and with the erection of the proposed teacher's cottage thereon. In case a deed is desired please have same drawn up and forward to me, and I will secure definite authority from our Board at its April meeting to execute and deliver same to you.

Kindly accept my personal regards, and assuring you that we appreciate very much the helpful cooperation you have always shown towards this Board,

Yours sincerely,

VB MG

Treasurer



Rev. George J. Beck - page 2. March 24th, 1923.

In closing may I say that I hope the delay already had in this matter will not prevent the carrying out of your cherished plans to have a building erected before the fishing season opens. I can readily see that you are going to have a close race in order to have the building enclosed, available for use this summer.

The erection of the building cannot be started until we know just where we stand as regards an accepted plan and the sum available. When these two items are determined and made to harmonize, the word can be given to begin. It may be that there will be no particular embarrassment if the erection of the building is deferred until Fall so long as it can be completed before the rigorous weather sets in.

Let me have your full and detailed reaction on this whole situation so that we can go ahead as fast as circumstances will permit.

I should have reported to you that the Board at its February meeting approved your recommendation that a parcel of land be assigned or transferred to the Bureau of Education in order that the enlargement of their school plant may be affected. Yesterday I sent a telegram to Mr. Lopp advising that the Bureau of Education could go ahead with their plans and that the required papers in the case would be furnished in due season. I trust that this word was received in time to permit of Mr. Lopp's plans being carried out within the required time.

With kindest regards to you and your good wife, I am

Very sincerely yours,

VB MG ~~Very sincerely yours,~~ Treasurer

Enc.



March 24th, 1923.

Re: Hoonah, Alaska, Manse

Rev. George J. Beck,  
Hoonah, Alaska

Dear Mr. Beck:

I fear that I have inadvertently failed to follow up the Hoonah manse matter promptly.

Finding that the plan which you gave me in Seattle required a larger expenditure than the Board of Church Erection was willing to assume, I referred the matter back to Mr. Keeler stating that you desired a building that would enable small meetings to be held in your home, as a result of which I have received a suggested plan covering a one-story building as per pencil sketch enclosed. Before going ahead with this I want your reaction on the plan.

The Board of Church Erection has made a grant of \$2,000 for the new manse and Mr. Keeler has estimated that with the concession received on lumber, you will be able to erect this building within that amount, but he has not been informed that the \$543.71 which we paid for the lighting system was advanced by authority of our Finance Committee upon condition that the Board would later be reimbursed for this sum from the expected grant to be made by the Church Erection Board. At present writing, therefore, there would seem to be but \$1,500 available to put up this building and this, I much fear, is not enough to provide for the cost of labor in addition to the material and freight.

There is one thought expressed in your letter of December 30th last concerning the manse which I cannot wholly accept; namely, that "the manse belongs to the town." I cannot see your viewpoint here except that it may be you have in mind that the manse, while primarily furnished as the home of the missionary, is eventually built for the benefit of the natives. This may be true, to a certain extent, but the Board would furnish the manse just as readily and with the same objective if a native never entered it, and, therefore, I am inclined to think that your love and interest in the native has carried you a bit too far in the position which you take regarding this manse. Then too, as I wrote you by inference, in a previous letter, the Chapel is supposed to be used for all kinds of services and meetings and I do not believe it is a good policy to erect a manse building of sufficient proportions to accommodate a large number of people so long as you have the Chapel. A big room in a manse would be justified if there were no other available place in which to meet.

I would, therefore, suggest that you review the enclosed plan with the thought in mind that it is provided, first, for the comfort and convenience of the missionary and his wife, and if, by throwing one room open you can enjoy the capacity of any part of it for the purpose of small meetings, well and good.



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF EDUCATION, ALASKA DIVISION

ALASKA NATIVE SCHOOL, MEDICAL, AND REINDEER SERVICE

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

April 4, 1923.

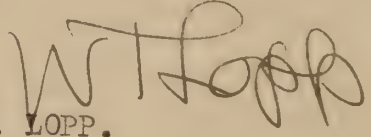
Mr. Varian Banks,  
Board of Home Missions,  
156 Fifth Ave.,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Banks:

I desire to express my appreciation of your prompt action in connection with the transfer of property at Hoonah for the purpose of enabling us to erect a school residence at that place.

Thanking you for your courtesy and that of the Board in connection with this matter, I am, with best wishes,

Very truly yours,

  
WILLIAM T. LOPP,  
Superintendent of Education  
of Natives of Alaska.

L-IMK



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF EDUCATION, ALASKA DIVISION

ALASKA NATIVE SCHOOL, MEDICAL, AND REINDEER SERVICE

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

April 20, 1923.

Mr. Varian Banks, Treas.,  
Board of Home Missions,  
156 Fifth Ave.,  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Banks:

Referring to your letter of March 27, regarding the transferring to this Bureau of lots for the use of our school plant at Hoonah, I had hoped to have more definite information regarding these lots before replying to your letter.

I have had no correspondence with Mr. Beck regarding this transfer. I understood, however, that Superintendent Hawkesworth and our Hoonah teacher, Mr. Stansfield, had conferred with him regarding it and that he was in accord with them regarding the transfer. The rough draft we sent you was, I understand, taken from the survey made by Ken Smith, the Forest Examiner, June 7 to 14, 1919.

Superintendent Hawkesworth has written me that six lots, as per the diagram mailed you, were to have been included rather than the three lots numbered, and suggests that the matter be taken up with you at once. As I recall it, the rough draft of the diagram forwarded you had only three of the lots numbered. I am, therefore, writing to Mr. Hawkesworth, suggesting that he secure from the plat the numbers of the six lots desired in the transfer. The total area of the land desired is 150 by 200 feet. As soon as I have received this information from him I will forward it to you in order that the six lots may be mentioned in the transfer, if it meets with your approval.

I am writing to Washington with regard to the necessity for a deed to these lots, and shall write you later regarding this matter.

Assuring you of our appreciation of the action you have taken in regard to this transfer, and the many other ways in which you have cooperated with us, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

  
W. T. LOPP, Chief of Alaska Division



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF EDUCATION

WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ONLY

THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

*Hoonah Alaska*

May 8, 1923.

Mr. Varian Banks, Treasurer,  
Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Banks:

I regret that legal difficulties prevent the Bureau of Education from availing itself of the willingness of the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church to transfer to the Bureau of Education a tract adjacent to the United States Public School Reservation at Hoonah, Alaska.

There is an act of Congress according to which land can be purchased by a branch of the Government only when specific permission has been granted by Congress for such action. There is another act of Congress which forbids the acceptance of land by a branch of the Government, unless authority for the acceptance of such donation has been granted by congressional action.

At the coming session of Congress the Bureau of Education will probably endeavor to secure authority which will permit it to accept the tract at Hoonah which the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church courteously offers.

Assuring you of my appreciation of the cooperation of the Board in this matter, I am,

Cordially yours,

*John J. Tigert*  
Commissioner.

*Pres. or VP. &  
being authorized to  
execute deed. 4/26/23*



PACIFIC NET & TWINE CO.

DEALERS IN

FISHING AND CANNERY EQUIPMENT--MARINE HARDWARE

GAS ENGINES

STEAMSHIP SUPPLIES, GAS ENGINES AND ACCESSORIES

AGENTS FOR

STANDARD : : }  
CAMPBELL : : }  
FRISBIE : : }  
FOUR  
CYCLE

FISH NETTING, TWINES, LINES, ROPE AND CORDAGE

PLYMOUTH

FERRO...TWO & FOUR CYCLE  
FERRO...OUTBOARD MOTORS  
SOUTHWARK - HARRIS DIESEL

PIER 8 FOOT OF PIKE STREET

MANILA, SISAL AND

SEATTLE, WASH.

HEMP CORDAGE

May 15 1923

SOLD TO The Board of Home Mission of Presbyterian  
c/o Mr Varian Banks, Church of U.S.A.  
New York City, N.Y.

REQ. No.

TERMS

Lumber net - no Dis

300#	8d box nails, brt	300#	4.70 cwt	14.10
60#	3d shingle nails brt	60#	6.70 "	4.02
10 gal	paint, outside white #500	10 gal	3.50 gal	35.00
1 gal	green paint #712	1	3.00 gal	3.00
3 gal	Inside white #800	3	2.50 gal	7.50
3 gal	Valspar, best grade, floor varnish 1/s	3	5.60	16.80
200#	20d nails, bright	200#	4.45 cwt	8.90
40#	8d finishing nails, bright	40#	5.10 cwt	2.04
14	sash locks	1-1/6 dz	1.00 dz	1.16
14	sash lifts	1-1/6 dz	1.00 dz	1.16
3	Transom catches	1/4 dz	2.25 dz	.56
4	transom chains	1/3 dz	2.15	.72
10	Mortise locks	5/6	9.00 dz	7.50
13 pr	3 1/4 x 3 1/2 butts	13 pr	.30 pr	3.90
1	top & bottom bolt for double door	2	.30 ea	.60
10#	8d casing nails, bright	10#	.05#	.50
30#	3d cement coated nails, for wall board	30#	.09#	2.70
2	6" thimbles, galv iron	2	.20 ea	.40
4 pr	Cupboard door hinges	4 pr	.20 pr	.80
2 pr	Cupboard door turns	2 pr	.10 ea	.20
2	Elbow catches	2	.10 ea	.20
1	18 x 30 flat rim sink with trap	1	9.80 ea	9.80
10'	1 1/2" lead pipe for kitchen sink	21#	.12 1/2#	2.69
100#	Lime	100#	.02 1/2#	2.50
450	Common brick	450	15.00 M	6.75
1	Lock for front door		2.10 ea	2.10
3660'	Wall board	for		165.00
25#	Plater putty for wall board			
11 Only	Windows 24 x 24 top cut 6 lts			
3 "	do 24 x 16			
1 "	sash 0 M 24 x 25 cut 8 lights			
2 "	do 24 x 25 4 "			
1 "	front door 2'8" x 6'8" x 1-3/8"			
1 "	back door 2'8" x 6'8" x 1-3/8"	for		83.80
2 "	" 2'0" x 6'8" x 1-3/8"			
6 "	" 2'6" x 6'8" x 1-3/8"			
2 "	" 2'8" x 6'8" x 1-3/8"			

Insurance

384.40

2.65

REV GEO W BECK, HOONAH ALASKA

387.05



May 17th, 1923.

Re: Hoonah, Alaska

Mr. W. T. Lopp,  
Chief of Alaska Division,  
Department of the Interior,  
Seattle, Washington.

Dear Mr. Lopp:

This will acknowledge your letter of the 20th ult. which was promptly received here in which you explain the delay which will be necessary in accepting this Board's consent to transfer to the Department of the Interior land upon which the proposed teachers building shall be erected.

There will be no objection on the part of the Board to increasing its release of land for this purpose from three to six lots.

We are prepared to execute such document as may be requested in setting apart an area 150 x 200 feet. I presume that the survey made by Ken Smith, the Forest Examiner in 1919, to which you refer, has been duly recorded so that we can readily refer to the officially recognized plat in describing the above parcel of land to be turned over to your Department.

There would be no objection on the part of the Board to your occupying the desired amount of land and to begin the erection of the needed buildings at an opportune time, even though the actual deed from this Board is not in hand. This latter is only one of ordinary formality and can be depended upon.

I will await your pleasure before taking any further action regarding this matter.

Sincerely yours,

VB MG      Treasurer



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF EDUCATION, ALASKA DIVISION  
ALASKA NATIVE SCHOOL, MEDICAL, AND REINDEER SERVICE  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

1567  
1568  
1569

May 26, 1923.

Mr. Varian Banks, Treas.,  
Board of Home Missions,  
156 Fifth Ave.,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Banks:

I have your letters of May 17. I also have a copy of Commissioner Tigert's letter to you of May 8, in which it is explained that because of legal difficulties it will not be possible for this Bureau to accept the lots at Hoonah which you propose to transfer, and build on them until an Act of Congress can be secured, authorizing it. This will necessarily delay our building program at Hoonah, as it will not be possible to secure this authorization before some time next winter. I have notified our superintendent at Juneau and our teacher at Hoonah. I assure you, however, that your willingness to transfer the two additional lots, or an area of 150 by 200 feet, is appreciated.

Letters and wires received from Rev. Nickerson, of Cordova, indicate that he thought his appointment was for Gambell rather than Wales. I wired him, however, that I would recommend Mrs. Nickerson for Government teacher at either place. I think he plans to reach Seattle in a few days. Mrs. Nickerson is in San Francisco, and they will plan to sail from Seattle probably some time in July. Captain Backland sailed yesterday for the Arctic. He carried your coal and supplies for Wales. He will doubtless land it there about June 25.

With best wishes, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

MT Lopp

Superintendent of Education  
of Natives of Alaska.

L:IMK



September 27th, 1923.

*Re. Hoonah Manse*

Rev. David Waggoner,  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Mr. Waggoner

You have made a technical, though pardonable error, in writing and reporting to Mr. Keeler concerning the Hoonah manse. Please bear in mind the fact that the funds which the Board of Home Missions obtained for the erection of that manse came from the Board of Church Erection is a matter which concerns this Board only. Your action, therefore, in communicating with Mr. Keeler is incorrect and I trust you will in all matters concerning the Home Mission interests in Alaska, until otherwise advised, write to me. Mr. Keeler has turned over to me your letter of September 5th and also your telegram of the 24th inst. in carrying out the very suggestion which he made to you that you send all accounts and bills to me. I am stating the above plainly, not because I am concerned about your writing to the wrong man but merely to set you right.

In your letter, above referred to, you state that you have freight bills sent from Hoonah amounting to a total of \$390.31. I note, however, included in this sum is an item of \$220.95 for freight on house from Seattle. As we paid this amount direct from this office last May, it would seem that you have sent us a statement of items which you suppose are due, but of which you have no personal knowledge. As I do not find any other items named in your letter included in amounts which we have remitted from this office direct, I will assume that they are still payable and now enclose check to your order for \$169.36 with which to pay the following items reported in your letter:

Longshoring	\$ 16.45	\$16.45
Windows, Wallboard, etc.		
Freight from Seattle - Juneau	\$64.31	
Juneau to Hoonah	36.75	
Wharfage	6.00	
From Pacific Net & Twine		
Seattle to Hoonah Freight	31.90	
Wharfage and longshoring	13.95	\$169.36

I also enclose check to the order of C. W. Young & Company for \$132.96 in payment of their bill of August 23rd last.

Now here is the situation:

We secured from the Board of Church Erection original  
grant of. . . . . \$ 2,000.00  
Later through the kind intervention of Mr. Keeler,  
there was set apart from the proceeds of the  
Ketchikan Manse sale . . . . . 500.00



September 27th, 1923.

At the meeting of the Board of Church Erection held on Thursday the 20th inst. upon the recommendation of Mr. Keeler that fearing the \$2,500. would be insufficient to cover the full cost of the building the Board of Church Erection granted an addition of . . . . . \$ 300.00  
Thus making a total of . . . . . \$2,800.  
which is the full amount available to provide for the total cost of the manse.

Of the above amount we have paid to date, inclusive of the enclosed checks \$1,468.89 leaving a balance from the total appropriation of \$1331.11. I enclose a third check for \$1,031.11.

Before we pay any further sums in order that we may certify to the Board of Church Erection that the \$300. additional, which they kindly granted, is actually needed to pay for the building as originally projected, I will need from you a full statement as to what further amounts are necessary in addition to the enclosed remittance, plus the \$4.32 balance which you report on hand from the \$500. given you by Mr. Keeler. Let me have a complete statement which will begin with the item: "Amount reported as paid direct from the New York Office, \$1166.57" and then add the enclosed remittance and show what further balance is necessary and why.

Sincerely yours,

V.B. MG

Treasurer

Encs.



558.57 ✓  
 220.95 ✓  
 387.05 ✓  
1166.57  
 156.66  
1323.23

558.57 ✓  
 764.66  
1323.23 ✓  
 676.77     Bal of the  
                  2000.-

156.66

1166.57  
 169.36  
 132.90  
 1031.11  
2500.00



HOME MISSION COMMITTEE

AND

VACANCY AND SUPPLY

# PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

REV. DAVID WAGGONER,  
JUNEAU, ALASKA  
STATED CLERK AND TREASURER

REV. S. HALL YOUNG, D. D.  
GENERAL MISSIONARY  
JUNEAU, ALASKA

REV. GEORGE G. BRUCE, D. D., CH., JUNEAU, ALASKA

REV. E. L. WINTERBERGER, SKAGWAY, ALASKA

REV. DAVID WAGGONER, JUNEAU, ALASKA

Juneau, Alaska,  
October 5, 1923.

Mr. Varian Banks, Treas.,  
156 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Dear Brother:

Wire as follows received today:

"Ten hundred thirty dollars mailed Sep twenty eight stop three hundred more available for which amount only you are authorized to draw stop if original building plans were changed we shall hold some one responsible for involving Board by incurring obligations without authority in excess of amount available stop Before further consideration is given must have full report as requested in my letter.

Varian Banks."

You no doubt are aware that the plans and estimates of the Presbytery of Alaska for the building of a manse at Hoonah were rejected in toto by the Board from last years estimates. The present manse now building is entirely outside of the knowledge of Presbytery or its Committee. Your letter of September 24th is the first information we have had as to the funds which the Board planned to expend on the present manse.

As to original plans we are not aware what they might have been. Mr. Keeler gave a pencil drawing of a floor plan and a bill of lumber submitted by the lumber company which furnished the material shipped from Seattle. This drawing has been followed as closely as the carpenter could, and the materials have been used as economically as a good workman-- one of the best in Juneau-- could possibly figure.

I will review as clearly as I can the details of construction as planned when Mr. Keeler and Dr. Freeman were in Juneau. At the request of the brethren I introduced Mr. G. E. Krause a contractor to them. Mr. Krause was asked to take a contract to erect the manse at Hoonah. This Mr. Krause said he could not do as the plans submitted were inadequate and it was impossible to figure unless he saw the location and the material on hand, and further that the prices of the extra materials, cement, lumber, hardware &c were fluctuating so much and so rapidly that it was impossible to contract. He therefore took the work on a labor and material basis. Mr. Krause was informed that the house was a knocked down building and that everything necessary with hardware was at Hoonah. From the information given Mr. Krause said that he thought he could build the manse for about \$2700.



HOME MISSION COMMITTEE  
AND  
VACANCY AND SUPPLY

PRESBYTERY  
OF ALASKA

REV. DAVID WAGGONER,  
JUNEAU, ALASKA  
STATED CLERK AND TREASURER

REV. S. HALL YOUNG, D. D.,  
GENERAL MISSIONARY  
JUNEAU, ALASKA

REV. GEORGE G. BRUCE, D. D., CH., JUNEAU, ALASKA  
REV. E. L. WINTERBERGER, SKAGWAY, ALASKA  
REV. DAVID WAGGONER, JUNEAU, ALASKA

Re Hoonah Manse #2

Upon this understanding Mr. Krause was instructed by Mr. Keeler to construct the manse. The same to have a basement with concrete walls, a furnace, and the necessary plumbing. When the work was undertaken after the visit of Mr. Krause, Mr. Keeler, and Dr. Young to Hoonah the workmen found that the house was not a knocked down building but unframed rough number two lumber. Also when the gravel and sand were to be secured instead of suitable material at hand it had to be towed some distance.

The question asked in your wire inquires who incurred the additional cost. We do not know. Mr. Krause was instructed to construct the house and to get any materials which might be short. I was to O Kay any material needed and check up on Mr. Krause. From this end everything has been done according to instructions from the Board's representatives. The additional cost may be placed under the following heads:

- 1- The house was not a knocked down frame therefore additional cost for labor for framing.] and
- 2- The lumber was a very poor quality & suffered shortage either in transportation or after arrival at Hoonah hence more material had to be secured to complete the building.
- 3- Most of this extra material had to come from Juneau and as the common carrier could not take to Hoonah when needed and to keep from paying full wages to idle men, a boat had to be chartered.
- 4- The gravel at the location of the building was not fit to be used for concrete, so the material had to be towed from a distance by a chartered boat.
- 5- The increased demand for men in the States, and the much higher wages paid there, induced most of the good mechanics to leave Alaska. Higher wages had to be paid to get the men obtained, to retain them at Hoonah where they had to board themselves.
- 6- The cement delivered after the work was begun increased in price as did hardware and lumber.
- 7- Brick, Nails, Butts, were short for the job, and windows for the basement had to be purchased.

Now there is no body at fault on account of the above items I am sure you can see. It is just what we are experiencing everywhere on the Coast where building is going on. If there is any fault it is a lack of appropriation in the beginning to meet business and building conditions.



HOME MISSION COMMITTEE  
AND  
VACANCY AND SUPPLY

## PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

REV. DAVID WAGGONER,  
JUNEAU, ALASKA  
STATED CLERK AND TREASURER

REV. S. HALL YOUNG, D. D.,  
GENERAL MISSIONARY  
JUNEAU, ALASKA

REV. GEORGE G. BRUCE, D. D., CH., JUNEAU, ALASKA  
REV. E. L. WINTERBERGER, SKAGWAY, ALASKA  
REV. DAVID WAGGONER, JUNEAU, ALASKA

Re Hoonah Manse #3

I am enclosing a statement of accounts given to us today by Mr. Krause and I am sure you will find them just and fair. Our Committee has gone over the items and approve them. Mr. Krause has saved for the Board where ever possible. On the delivery of the cement alone \$75. were saved for the Board.

There is still to pay, the labor during this month, which we cannot estimate until the carpenters come to Juneau; the floor of the basement which is to be constructed, and hydrated on account of the tide which comes above floor level; the sewer to the Bay and the plumbing. We cannot estimate what these items will cost because we cannot get a contract made for an out of town job.

You have in the enclosed sheet what is due for bills rendered. The freight was paid by the wharf at Hoonah last June and they have carried our account since that time. I did not know of this until September 1st, but thought that all due on material had been paid in Seattle. All bills for labor and material in Alaska are due in thirty days. It has been a hard burden to be borne to be asked for remittances for bills long past, due by men who have made their charges as low as possible on account of their friendship, and to be unable to meet these just debts because we have no money to pay them and cannot tell them when we will pay.

As we stated in our wire the credit of the Board is being questioned and the men who are on the field <sup>near the</sup> ~~onus~~. This money should have been deposited to the credit of the Hoonah manse at the beginning that we should ~~have~~ not have been working without knowledge and we could have been able to tell you that the work could not have been done for the amount appropriated. This has not been a contract and the bills should be met as incurred.

Upon receipt of the above information may we not ask that you wire the B.M. Behrends Bank sufficient funds to meet these obligations. We are not waiting for your letter of September 28, but are writing in this what we think you ought to know, and what may answer the questions you have written. If there is further information asked for in that letter we will immediately reply, but the situation is so urgent we will not wait for your letter and will mail this on the steamer leaving tonight.

Sincerely yours,

*David Waggoner*



HOME MISSION COMMITTEE  
AND  
VACANCY AND SUPPLY

REV. GEORGE G. BRUCE, D. D., CH., JUNEAU, ALASKA  
REV. E. L. WINTERBERGER, SKAGWAY, ALASKA  
REV. DAVID WAGGONER, JUNEAU, ALASKA

PRESBYTERY  
OF ALASKA

REV. DAVID WAGGONER,  
JUNEAU, ALASKA  
STATED CLERK AND TREASURER

REV. S. HALL YOUNG, D. D.  
GENERAL MISSIONARY  
JUNEAU, ALASKA

Juneau, Alaska,  
October 11, 1923.

Mr. Varian Banks, Treas.,  
156 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Dear Brother:

Your letter of September received with inclosures. My letter to you of October 5th answers your querries with the exception of the original lumber bill frieght amounting to \$220.95 which you state you paid in Seattle in May. All the accounts rendered in my letter to Mr. Keeler, and which is now in your hands, listed as freight at Hoonah were handed to me by Mr. Beck with the statement that they had been due for a long time. I have written to Mr. Beck to day with remittande for the remaining freight bills and asked for information on the original bill. I will write to you again when I hear from Mr. Beck.

Sincerely,

David Waggoner

*He is silent on the question I put  
in my letter of 27 Sept last regarding  
concerning the Hoonah name "as originally  
pronounced"*



# ACCOUNTS OF HOONAH MANSE RENDERED BY G.E. KRAUSE.

1923		Labor & Freight		Material	
Aug	1	Charter boat George Jr. to take Keeler, Young, and Krause to locate building and two laborers for excavating basement			
		60	00		
		2 days time G.E. Krause		18	00
"	8	Brick \$22, Chimney top \$1.00			78 00
		Wire for Concrete forms			23 00
		Charter boat George Jr,			1 85
"	16-20	Towing & Gravel and sand		\$100	00
		Windows for basement		275	80
		13.85	1.25		
		Building paper, Sash 14 X 16			6 05
					15 10
"		Contract excavating basement		100	00
		Building forms & pouring concrete			
		Harry Bracken 81 1/4 hrs @ 138 hrs		119	92
		George Dull 102 hrs @ 75¢		76	50
		Transportation men		15	50
		Cement 126 sacks @ \$1.60			201 60
Sept	13 1/2	Lumber to complete porches &c			73 86
	13	Hardware for doors & glue			6 35
	24	Nails & hardware			70
	23	Labor P. Miller 138 hrs. @ 81 1/4 ¢		112	13
		Carpenters to October 1, 1923			
		Jackson master carpenter			
		Aug. 24 days, Sept. 30 days @ \$11.00		594	00
		Helper Aug. 24 dy. Sept. 30 dy, @ \$6.50		351	00
		Helper 7 days in Sept. @ \$6.50		45	50
		Furnace delivered already and to be set			450 00
		Cement for basement floor and chimney			64 00
		Longshoring on same		21	00
				\$ 842	51
				\$1	889 35
		Total to G. E. Krause for Bils. to date			\$2731 86
		Bills rendered Rev. A. B. Keeler			
		Sept. 5th, 1923			
		Freight paid by Hoonah Dock--due		\$ 390	31 Paid
		C.W. Young Co. Stove and Boiler for plumbing		132	96 Paid
				523	27
		Total due accounts rendered			3255 13
		Less amount paid			3000 00
					\$2955 13



October 17th, 1925.

Re: Hoonah, Alaska, Manse

Rev. A. B. Keeler, Extension Secretary,  
The Board of the Church Erection Fund,  
Building.

Dear Mr. Keeler:

With a letter received today from Rev. David Waggoner of Juneau, Alaska, who has charge of the financing of the manse at Hoonah, Alaska, a statement is submitted showing the balance required to meet the cost for additional material, labor and for the installation of heating and lighting facilities.

The total cost of the building will amount to, approximately, \$4,200. which amount, in view of the great distance and the material having to be freighted, the inconvenient location of material for the concrete foundations, and the scarcity of labor, in connection with the furnishing of the lumber at cost through the kindness of your lumber friends in Washington, indicates a very low cost for this building.

Your Board has already made a total grant of \$2,800. for this building leaving a still further sum of \$1,400 to be provided for in order to meet the bills now due. I would suggest that the \$800. remaining from the sale of the Ketchikan manse be appropriated towards this balance, and that the remaining \$800. be granted from your General Funds in addition to your former grant.

In Mr. Waggoner's letter he states that the Board's credit is imperilled because of delay in meeting the wages due the men for labor, hence in view of the urgent need for prompt action I trust that you can, from your personal knowledge of this situation, heartily recommend to your Board at its next meeting the additional appropriation of \$1,400. as above suggested in order that we may wire the amount necessary to meet the bills already overdue with a minimum of delay.

Sincerely yours,

VB MG      Treasurer



# The Board of the Church Erection Fund

OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

REV. DAVID G. WYLIE, D. D., L. L. D.,  
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

REV. JESSE C. BRUCE, D. D.,  
FIELD SECRETARY.

REV. GEORGE R. BRAUER,  
TREASURER.

156 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK, October 19, 1923

Mr. Varian Banks,  
Treasurer Board of Home Missions,  
**BUILDING.**

**THIS APPROPRIATION WILL EXPIRE ONE YEAR FROM DATE**

Dear Brother:-

The application of the **Grant** of \$ **1400.** Church in **Hoonah, Alaska,** for a **loan** of \$ **1400.**, to aid in the **completion of manse**, was presented to the Board at a meeting held **October 18,** 19**23.**

The Board voted to make a **Grant** of \$ **1,400.**, subject to the following conditions:

1. ~~That the loan will be repaid in xxxxxxxxx annual payments of xxxxxxxx~~
2. That the Deed to the property is in fee-simple, with no restrictions or reversionary features.
3. That the Trustees will secure all the cash needed toward cost of said ~~property~~, except the Board's appropriation, before asking the Board to pay its appropriation, and will have applied it on the building or improvement.
4. That the Church will, by its authorized Officers, give the Board a first Mortgage to secure the Denomination's funds in the event of alienation of property, abandonment or sale; and to secure the repayment of loan.
5. That the Board's investment in the property shall be protected by a policy of Insurance to be supplied by the Church or to be taken out by the Board, the Church to pay the premiums.

If you will notify me about a month before the money is needed, the necessary blanks, such as Trustee's Certificate and Insurance Survey will be sent you for the Church Officers to fill out and the Mortgage will be sent to

In behalf of the Board, and with best wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

H:

*David G. Wylie*

General Secretary.





# THE BOARD OF THE CHURCH ERECTION FUND

OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Telephone Call 9757 CHELSEA

REV. DAVID G. WYLIE, DD., LL.D.  
*General Secretary*

REV. A. B. KEELER  
*Extension Secretary*

REV. GEORGE R. BRAUER  
*Treasurer*

156 FIFTH AVENUE.

Index **HOONAH MANSE ALASKA** NEW YORK October 19, 1923.

Mr. Varian Banks  
Board of Home Missions  
Building

My dear Mr. Banks:

In response to your inquiry regarding the matter of the Hoonah manse I am sending you some of the facts pertinent to the matter.

The original plans of the manse called for six rooms without basement or furnace. Cost of the lumber and material including freight and labor for the building . . . . . \$2,000.00

Upon reaching Alaska and meeting with the Board of Church Erection Committee, Rev. D. Wagner, Chairman, Dr. S. Hall Young, and Mr. Krouse, the contractor who is erecting the manse, it was discovered that a basement was needed and furnace. This meant added expense, an estimate of which brought the total cost of the building to reach some \$2,700 or \$2,800. The Committee further suggested that the house be enlarged to include another story affording two extra rooms and would mean more lumber and expense. I made it very plain to the Committee and stated definitely that I was not in favor of the extra rooms or the added expense and had no authority to contract for this additional expense. Whether or not this has been done I do not know, only I do know that I have given no authority for it. I felt that the six room house was large enough to meet the needs and quite in keeping with all fairness to other needs in Alaska. I did concur in the completing of the basement and installing the furnace.

I note further that in the information you have given me that there is added expense in materials and labor which were not known at the time of my conference on the field in July.

I trust the added grant voted by the Board will be able to take care of the extra expenses incident to the completion of the Hoonah Manse.

I am leaving this information with you in case you may need it.

Very truly yours,

*A B Keeler*

K:D





October 23rd, 1923

Re: Hoonah, Alaska, Manse

Rev. George R. Brauer, Treasurer,  
The Board of the Church Erection Fund,  
Building.

Dear Mr. Brauer:

We are in receipt of the usual notice from Dr. Wylie reporting that the additional grant requested for the above building is submitted by Mr. Keeler at the meeting of your Board, held on the 18th inst., has been granted.

At the present time we would appreciate the remittance of \$800. on this grant, the balance to remain with you until actually needed.

I trust that the filing with you of the formal Receipt and Agreement can be delayed until the full amount of your grant has been paid, when the required document will be executed and duly delivered. I make this suggestion because I am hoping that word from Alaska will indicate that the full amount of this balance will not be required. I am writing on this point definitely and, therefore, will advise you later as to the need for the total additional grant, or what portion is required.

Yours sincerely,

VB MG

Treasurer



HOME MISSION COMMITTEE

AND

VACANCY AND SUPPLY

# PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

REV. DAVID WAGGONER,  
JUNEAU, ALASKA  
STATED CLERK AND TREASURER

REV. S. HALL YOUNG, D. D.  
GENERAL MISSIONARY  
JUNEAU, ALASKA

REV. GEORGE G. BRUCE, D. D., CH., JUNEAU, ALASKA  
REV. E. L. WINTERBERGER, SKAGWAY, ALASKA  
REV. DAVID WAGGONER, JUNEAU, ALASKA

Juneau, Alaska,  
November 8th, 1923.

Mr. Varian Banks, Treas.,  
156 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Dear Brother:

Your letter of October 26, 1923 to Dr. Young re Hoonah Manse and Boat A.L. Lindsley, a copy of which you prepared for me has been duly received. I thank you for the courtesy extended in sending me the copy, especially since it gives me an opportunity of clearing up several points of misunderstanding which you have stated in this particular letter, and others of which I am cognizant though not written to me personally. I will answer in regard to the above items in separate parts of this letter so that our files may be kept complete.

In regard to the Hoonah Manse. I thought when I wrote to you under the date of October 5th, 1923, to which letter you refer, in your letter to Dr. Young, that I had made conditions as clear as possible. You have seemingly failed to understand what I meant, I will, therefore, do my best to make it clearer at this time.

Quoting from my letter of Oct. 5th---"You are no doubt aware that the plans and estimates of the Presbytery of Alaska for the building of a manse at Hoonah were rejected in toto by the Board from last years (1923) estimates. The present manse now building is entirely outside the knowledge of the Presbytery of its Committee. Your letter of September 24th is the first information we have had as to the funds which the Board planned to expend on the present manse."

You will understand by this quotation that at the beginning of the present fiscal year the Presbytery of Alaska did not know that a manse was even contemplated by any Board for Hoonah this year.

In a letter from Rev. A.B. Keeler in regard to other business the following information came as a bolt out of a clear sky: Quoting from letter to me from Mr. Keeler under date of April 20, 1923.

"I shipped today by Alaska Steamship Company entire lumber and hardware materials for ~~the~~ Hoonah manse, direct to Mr. Beck at Hoonah. This should reach him by April 25th."

This is the first information Presbytery's Committee had that a house was contemplated. This lumber failed to reach Hoonah at the time indicated and Mr. Beck was in Seattle when he received a letter from the lumber company stating that they had shipped the lumber indicated in the enclosed bill. This was the second time I received information of the manse, and this from Mr. Beck. At no time was it indicated to me what was the plan of the house, the cost of same, or who was building it by providing the funds.

Please read again my letter of October 5th, paragraphs 2 and 3 of page 1.



The first intimation of what the manse at Hoonah was to be was given to me when Mr.Keeler entered into conversation with Mr. G.E.Krause of Juneau looking to the erection of the manse as indicated in these paragraphs 1 and 2. At no time was information given me of what the cost of or appropriation for the manse at Hoonah was to be previous to the receipt of your letter of Sept.27th in which you gave the amount. All that I know about the financial part of the program is stated in the above named paragraphs; viz- that Mr.Krause's estimate was for "about \$2,700 for a material and labor agreement." How then can you say that---quoting from you letter to Dr.Young page 5 bottom paragraph;-

"The embarrassing situation which has arisen in this building matter is largely, if not mainly, attributable to Mr.Waggoner's failure to keep in touch with us and to seek instructions, in view of his foreknowledge that a considerable increase would be needed to complete this building. Instead, he went ahead, incurred obligations in excess of the amount named in the original estimate, after the conference with Mr.Keeler ( see Mr.Keeler's letter enclosed on this matter, which speaks for itself) and then, without previous warning, we received your startling telegram of October 4th, announcing that \$3,000 was required immediately to stop threatened liens." How can this be said of me or anyone in Alaska when we knew nothing at the time of the agreement with Mr.Krause,-both in July and August--- of either contemplated cost of appropriation?

Referring to Mr.Keeler's letter mentioned above and upon whose statement you have made the above assertions;. Quoting

"The original plans of the manse called for six rooms without basement or furnace." "Cost of lumber and material including freight and labor for building .....\$2,000.

Whose plans?"I do not know." Surely not mine, and as far as I know they were not made in Alaska.

Whose estimate of cost of building &c to be \$2,000 ? "I do not know." Surely it cannot be attributed to me since I have had nothing to do with buying the lumber or material, doing the shipping, or hiring the labor. Who is responsible for what was done outside of Juneau is beyond my knowledge. What was done in Juneau was through the agreement of Mr.Keeler and Mr.Krause, as Mr.Krause will no doubt inform you in his final statement of account. I was simply advisor to and witness for Mr.Keeler, and accepted at Mr.Keeler's request to act for him in paying the obligations taken by him in his agreement with Mr.Krause.

Quoting further from Mr.Keeler's letter;

"Upon reaching Alaska and meeting with the Board of Church Erection Committee, Rev.David Waggoner, Dr.S.Hall Young, and Mr.Krause, the contractor who is erecting the manse, it was discovered that a basement was needed and furnace. This meant added expense, an estimate of which brought the total cost of the building to reach some \$2,700 or \$2,800. The Committee further suggested that the house be enlarged to include an extra story affording two extra rooms and would mean more lumber and expense. I made it very plain to the Committee and stated that I was not in favor of the extra rooms or the added expense and had no authority to contract for this additional expense. Whether or not this has been done I do not know, only I do know that I have given no authority for it. I felt that the six room house was large enough to meet the needs and quite in keeping with all



-8- Mr. Banks- "re Hoonah Manse."

fairness to other needs in Alaska. I did concur in the completing of the basement and installing the furnace."

This statement of Mr. Keeler covers the situation as we understood it except what he may mean by "total cost". If he means total cost of the estimate for Mr. Krause's part of the construction, it is correct. Of reason for any other meaning I am ignorant.

We did call attention of Mr. Keeler to the recommendation of Presbytery to the Board, at the time Wrangell manse was built, that all houses for missionaries in Alaska be upon a basis of a home for a family of five. For this reason we asked that the present manse be made adequate for such a family, and at this time as it would be cheaper than to add more room for Mr. Becks successor. It was not authorized by Mr. Keeler, nor built by Mr. Krause.

Quoting further;

"I note further that in information you have given me that there is added expense in materials and labor which was not known at the time of my conference on the field in July."

This is correct since evidently Mr. Keeler was unacquainted with the fact that the house was not a knocked down house as he had stated to Mr. Krause, and that there was shortage, in transportation or otherwise, of materials which he stated would be found at Hoonah. This again states what my letter of October 5th stated under items 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7, of page 2.

It is evident therefore, that you have misinterpreted the letter of Mr. Keeler, having it firmly planted in your mind that I had let the contract, authorized the expenditures of Mr. Krause, and was acquainted with the building which you quote "as originally projected" even before I had received your letter of September 27th which told your appropriation, which did not reach me until a week after I wrote my letter of October 5th to you.

I think it is plain to you that I had nothing to do, nor in fact did any other member of the Board's servants in Alaska, in planning, purchasing materials for, or authorizing the building of, or engaging a man to erect the Hoonah manse. What I did was to act as a friend of Mr. Keeler in paying over monies which he had promised in his agreement with Mr. Krause, and to assure Mr. Keeler that Mr. Krause had fulfilled his obligations. It never entered my mind that I was under orders to any one unless it was to Mr. Keeler, and the only report I was to make was when the building was complete, certifying that such was the fact so that final payment could be made.

As to our telegram of October 3rd, received by you under the date of October 4th, which relates to the finances of the building of the Hoonah manse, and the credit of the Board.

In the matter of payments to Mr. Krause on the material and labor agreement for the construction of Hoonah manse, my recollection is as follows;

- 1- A payment of \$500. as soon as the money came from Ketchikan.
- 2- A second payment from New York as soon as Mr. Keeler arrived there, to meet labor wages and extra materials.
- 3- The remainder for construction, the furnace, and the labor of Mr. Krause himself to be paid upon the completion of the building.



-4- Mr.Banks- re "Hoonah Manse"

After the agreement was entered into with Mr.Krause on the material and labor proposition with the above financial understanding, Mr.Keeler made a visit to Sitka. Upon his return and while passing through Juneau enroute to Ketchikan, Mr.Keeler spent several hours in Juneau. During this time Mr.Keeler purchased a certain amount of paint for the painting of the Hoonah Church from the salesman of the W.P.Fuller Co., paint dealers of Seattle. I was instructed by Mr.Keeler to pay for this paint and freight charges F.O.B. Hoonah upon receipt of the bills, from the money received from Ketchikan.

The paint arrived in due time at the cost of \$185.13, freight Seattle to Hoonah \$10.35, total \$195.58. The check for \$500. from Ketchikan arrived upon the same boat as the paint. I immediately paid this bill and paid to Mr.Krause of the check \$300. leaving a balance of \$4.22 on hand for any wharfage cost that might come from Hoonah. Notice Mr.Krause was paid \$300. instead of the \$500. which was promised, This was August 24th, 23 days after the first labor was begun in accordance with the agreement.

On September 5th I wrote to Mr.Keeler (since I was acting as his representative) for funds to meet the number of bills which had been presented to me and which when Mr.Keeler was here were unknown to me, viz.- freight and longshoring on original bill ( which Mr.Beck sent me from Hoonah as not paid, since learned was paid but not receipted for on freight bill) -----

	\$237.40
Freight on Wall-board & Windows	107.06
Freight on Bill Pac.Net &Twine Co.	45.85
	<u>\$390.31</u>

I also stated that there was due to Mr.Krause for labor and material-- this included excavation of basement, cement and haul- of gravel for concrete, the construction of the basement walls, and the hauling of necessary materials from Juneau &c--- a sum of nearly \$1200. I asked in the letter for \$1600, which according to the agreement of Mr. Keeler and Mr.Krause, would meet the second payment of at least \$1000, the \$390.31 above mentioned and the shortage of \$200 on the first payment of \$500. promised.

Nearly the whole month of September went by without any word from Mr.Keeler. So after conference with Drs.Young and Bruce I sent the following telegram to Mr.Keeler:

"Labor and material on Hoonah job asking for immediate payment. Freight amounting to four hundred dollars at wharf all accounts past due stop Please wire sixteen hundred dollars or instruct sight draft at bank. Imperative for Boards credit.

Signed--David Waggoner.

You will see by this that I am still in the dark as to who had authority and was building the manse, and further as the friend acting for Mr.Keeler and to whom he told the contractor to look for funds I sent letter and wire. The men who had completed the excavation and built the concrete were insisting that they be paid, and the payment for cement and other materials was long past the thirty day limit for payment.

Mr.Keeler also authorized the purchase <sup>of</sup> a stove and hot water boiler from the C.W.Young Co. to go with the furnace and complete the plumbing equipment of the manse. This estimate was \$132.96. This order was duly filled and the payment made to C.W.Young Co, in your remittance of September 27th.



-5- Mr. Banks- re "Hoonah Manse"

My telegram to Mr. Keeler above quoted was sent to New York on September 24th. Nothing was heard from Mr. Keeler until the mail of October 2nd which brought the news to us that he had turned my letter of September 5th over to you, and that your office would handle all accounts. Therefore with bills due since June for freight, and engagements with Mr. Krause and his men accumulating since August 1st, I sent the wire of October 3rd direct to you upon the advice of Drs. Young and Bruce and with their consent added their names to it, to convince you of the urgency of meeting the obligations incurred by the Board in building the Hoonah Manse.

This wire brought the reply by wire from you dated Oct. 4th stating that you had sent a letter and money as follows:

"Ten hundred dollars mailed sep twenty eighth stop But three hundred more available for which amount only you are authorized to draw stop If original building plans were changed we shall hold someone responsible for involving Board by incurring obligations without authority in excess of amount available stop Before further consideration is given must have full report as requested in my letter." Signed Varian Banks.

With the information contained in this wire we were able to secure delay from the men. Again I consulted Drs. Young and Bruce in the matter and it was decided to send the letter of October 5th and not to wait for your letter of September 28th since the funds you were sending would not meet the obligations incurred. Anticipating from your telegram what might be some of the questions you would ask I composed and sent the letter of Oct. 5th, and promised to send you any further information your letter might ask. When your letter was received I thought that every question asked had been plainly answered in my letter. There was nothing further to write until Mr. Krause should complete his agreement which had been delayed on account of weather conditions and the inability of Mr. Krause to secure needed help for his many jobs under construction.

Nothing was heard from you about funds to meet the wages of the laborers as asked for in my letter, so I borrowed without obligation to the Board, to save the liens mentioned in my wire, the sum of \$500. to which amount Mr. Krause added from private funds sufficient to pay the men. I did not draw for the \$300. which you authorized as it was insufficient and I expected that after you received my letter of Oct. 5th the Board would meet its obligations which no one in Alaska had any hand in incurring.

When your letter to Dr. Young, a copy of which you sent me, came authorizing not only the \$300. but also the additional sum of \$600. we went to the Bank and secured sight draft for \$900. with which I paid the loan of \$500. and the remainder of amount together with balances in my hands from draft of \$1031.11, viz \$1.11, and the \$4.32 from the original \$500 sent from Ketchikan, total \$405.43, I paid to Mr. Krause, on account.

Mr. Krause has now handed me his final statement of account which I have certified. I will enclose with this letter a statement of all monies passing through my hands.



I must apologize for this lengthy letter. I have simply tried to give you all the information possible from this end in answer to the criticisms in your letter to Dr.Young. To establish in your mind our truthfulness that there has been no change in construction either on our part or the part of Mr.Krause I am enclosing pictures of the manse taken from the front and the back by Mr.Beck at my request.

Since you say in your letter to Dr.Young;

"In closing, may I say that this letter has been dictated after conference with Dr.Marquis, has been read by him and is forwarded with his full approval." I am also sending a copy of this letter to Dr.Marquis, that he may know the facts in the case as transacted in Alaska. I ask you also to show Dr.Marquis the pictures of the manse and the copy of the statement of agreement of Mr.Krause in which he sets forth the agreement between himself and Mr.Keeler.

I will also enclose a copy of this letter to Mr.Keeler.  
I remain with warmest regards,

Sincerely yours,

David Magdoner



MANUFACTURER OF CONCRETE  
BUILDING BLOCKS, BRICK,  
CHIMNEY BLOCKS WITH  
VENTILATING CHAMBERS  
SEWER PIPE, CULVERTS, ROOF  
TILE, SILLS, LINTELS

AUTOMATIC SEALING  
BURIAL VAULTS

# G. E. KRAUSE

BRICK AND STONEMASON  
PLASTERING CONTRACTOR

WATERPROOFING FOR SEEPAGE.  
CONCRETE TANKS FOR  
FUEL OIL STORAGE  
FURNACE AND BAKEOVEN  
BUILDING, FIREPLACES,  
BOILER SETTING  
FIREPLACE ACCESSORIES

*Avonah Manner*  
JUNEAU, ALASKA

Mr. Varian Banks, Treas.,  
156 Fifth av.,  
New York City.

Nov. 12, 1923

Replying to your letter:

My dear sir:

Rev. David Waggoner has asked that I send to you a statement of the agreement I had with Dr. A. B. Keeler to build the Hoonah house.

The first week in July, Rev. Dr. Robert Freeman and Rev. A. B. Keeler were introduced to me by Rev. David Waggoner. At that time Dr. Keeler stated he wanted a house built at Hoonah, gave me the dimensions of the house, made a rough pencil sketch on a piece of paper (as he had no plans with him stating Rev. G. J. Beck had them); he said materials were at Hoonah--(a knock-down frame house, frames only set, inside walls of wall board, all interior finish, hardware and painted ground).

He asked what I would contract to build this house complete, with concrete basement under entire house, seven feet in the clear (30 inches above ground and rest under), concrete for basement, put in all plumbing (plumbing fixtures except piping at Hoonah); install a furnace and do some brick work.

I refused to take such a job on contract, that he was could contract without going over the grounds, but did say I would handle the job on a material and labor basis. Question was could I estimate what it would cost. I said I would like a little time to figure, also called their attention to installing a furnace of my own pattern. Both gentlemen above mentioned examined one of these furnaces operating in Juneau and both said the furnace was satisfactory.

The following estimate was submitted to Dr. Keeler:

For furnace installed	\$450.00
concrete basement	750.00
erection of building	1500.00
TOTAL-----	\$2700.00

This estimate did including shortages in material, extras and plumbing, providing Dr. Keeler's description of the house was as he thought and stated to me.

Both Drs. Freeman and Keeler said my proposition was satisfactory, to take it on a material and labor basis. Rev. Waggoner was asked by Dr. Keeler to wire Rev. Beck for him for the plans, which were to come on the first boat. Upon the arrival of the boat Rev. Waggoner said Rev. Beck wrote that he had no plans. Rev. Waggoner told me he "had wired the second time to Rev. Beck to try to get the plans from the lumber company which had furnished the lumber, a copy of which will be sent in his possession". Rev. Waggoner handed me a pencilled sketch of a floor plan and a bill of lumber attached purporting to be the Hoonah house which was received about the time Dr. Keeler returned from his interior Alaska trip. At this time Dr. Keeler and I went over the proposition again, discussing the adding of a second story, and other details, but finally Dr. Keeler decided no changes were to be made from the original pencil sketch, excepting a change in the arrangement of rooms which



Mr. Yonah Beach 11-11-23

The cost and quantity of materials like used was used in estimate, but before that was to be added for the provision of inside and outside stairways to basement which was necessary because there was no basement in the original sketch; and yet, with these changes we still thought we could keep within the original estimate of \$1750.00.

On Aug. 1st Dr. Keeler went with me to Hoonah to look over materials and make up a list of quantities of things and other details. The lumber and other materials were in a miserable jumbled condition--three hundred yards away from construction point and with no orderly way of getting them. It was a very discouraging sight.

I went on Saturday to take charge and with the weather cooper and others. The cooper immediately discovered it was not a simple job. When they were separating materials to find what they were to do with, and when they started to put up according to sketch, there were many shortages; in many places rough lumber had to be planed by hand in order to work properly; nothing was set to measurement; nothing outside of the window frames was bundled or together.

Dr. Keeler said to me "be sure that Mr. Beck is pleased". Rather than have both inside and outside stairway to basement (thereby using up space under roof which could be used more advantageously by Rev. Beck) the outside stairway had to be exposed in back porch, on account of snowfall, wind and rain coming from the north in wintertime, which would have made entrance impossible.

As to the finance part of the agreement, Rev. Keeler promised me he would send me all payments through Rev. Waggoner as follows: \$500. immediately from Ketchikan, \$1000. at least additional upon his arrival in New York to meet labor bills, etc., the remainder, including carriage and my own labor to be paid upon rendering final account upon certification to the Board by Rev. Waggoner.

I have done my best to keep down costs to the lowest point. Materials for building up here, especially in an out of a way place like Hoonah (where no large steamers have port of call), run considerably more than in the same sized villages in the states; hauling, freight and time consumed in going and returning all add to the ultimate cost, most everything having to be sent there. I did save about \$75. on some freight for cement hauling to Hoonah and bringing tools back to Juneau, also transportation of self and three helpers at \$15.50 for each man, and giving the Board the benefit of my contractor's 10% discount on such purchases as I was entitled to discount. I have tried my best to carry out instructions as given by Drs. Freeman and Keeler, and believe Rev. Beck is pleased.

All materials that were necessary to be ordered were ordered by me, charged to me, verified by Rev. Waggoner, but Rev. Waggoner did not order one item himself, on his own accord for this Hoonah manse, and I only ordered those things which were absolutely necessary for its completion, Dr. Keeler giving me this right.

If everything to build with had been at Hoonah in condition as Dr. Keeler thought they should be and as he outlined to me, my estimate would have been very close to actual cost.

I shall send within a few days my detailed statement of all accounts.

Very truly yours,

L. E. Krause



December 3rd, 1923.

Re: Hoonah, Alaska

Rev. George J. Beck,  
Hoonah, Alaska

Dear Mr. Beck:

I am glad to learn from your letter of the 17th ult. that your house is practically completed and will be finished in ample time to give you the comfort of a warm house during the coming winter.

It is most unfortunate that there was such a mix-up on this building and that we were led into accepting what we were given to understand was an opportunity to save a good deal of money by buying the lumber in Seattle at a presumably low price. It is also unfortunate that you were compelled to be absent in Seattle at the time the shipment of this lumber was delivered at Hoonah. From the statement rendered by the builder, much trouble was caused by the helter skelter manner in which the lumber was placed at Hoonah by the boathands. We all learn by experience, it is true, and one such experience as this will enable us to avoid such a roundabout way in putting up a building. I cannot think that we saved a penny by buying the lumber at a wholesale price upon the recommendation of Mr. Keeler. I am more inclined to think that the building cost us more by adopting such a procedure. We will, hereafter, follow the plan which we have always found to be the safest in the end, to secure a definite contract for the erection of a building before authority is given to proceed, *if a contract can be obtained*

*previous*  
I was uncertain from your letter what you were going to do with the balance you had in your hands, previously reported, as you did not state that you would send such balance to the Lake Union Dry Dock Company. To make sure that that Company was reimbursed for their account against us, I sent check and now that you have received a return of the amount you sent, all is well. I will retain from your next check \$107.08.

By the way, our Office Auditor reports that no vouchers have been received from you for some two or three months. Have you overlooked this, or are you out of vouchers? In the latter event, you might call our attention to the fact and we will send you additional blanks. To make sure of this I am enclosing herewith blank forms that will carry you through to next summer, at least. You will recall, of course, that payments for the current month are only made on condition that the voucher for the month previous is in hand. Kindly keep this in mind as definite instructions have been given to our Office Auditor that no advance payments shall be made to any one who has failed to send in voucher for the previous month.

I am glad to learn that the outlook in connection with your work



Rev. George J. Beck, - page 2. ~~11/11/1928~~ December 3rd, 1928.

at Hoonah is so promising. I can appreciate that the brightening up of the inside of the Church will help you not a little. I can readily imagine that you did not hesitate to do all you could in the way of beautifying the inside.

I hope that since Mrs. Beck's return to Hoonah she has fully recovered her normal health, and that this finds you both hale and hearty.

Very sincerely yours,

VB MG ~~11/11/1928~~ Treasurer

Enc.



December 4th, 1923.

Rev. David Waggoner,  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Mr. Waggoner:

This will acknowledge your 6-page letter of the 8th inst. together with the statement in re the Hoonah Manse, and your 6-page letter of November 10th.

You correctly interpreted my reason for sending you a copy of the letter to Dr. Young and you were fully warranted in replying to the part thereof which concerned you and the criticisms made in that letter.

I was a bit dumbfounded when you referred to my letter as accusing you of a lack of business integrity (the underscoring being as contained in your letter.) As such a charge has never entered my mind nor, because of my knowledge of your thorough integrity, could it possibly be considered, I am afraid that you have read into that letter an attitude or understanding on our part here which has not the slightest foundation. Let this statement, and the knowledge that our confidence in your integrity is unquestioned and ever has been, settle this particular reference once and for all.

Regarding the answer you have submitted to our criticisms, I have but this to say:

If you did right in ignoring this Board in carrying on negotiations with a representative of another Board, notwithstanding the fact that the money involved belonged to the Board of Home Missions, and if, after your conference, with the foreknowledge that the Hoonah manse would cost a considerable sum beyond that which was apparently available, you believed it was unnecessary to present the facts to the Board of Home Missions for consideration and definite instructions, then, and in that event only, you have submitted a splendid alibi.

Then, a third initiatory error was made in <sup>not</sup> asking for definite instructions regarding the Hoonah manse shipment immediately after you heard from Mr. Keeler, which you state was the first information either you or the Presbytery's Committee had had regarding this manse. You could easily have inquired of Mr. Beck as we, at this office, were in correspondence with him upon the understanding that he would be on the ground and could look after the erection of the Building. At least, when the lumber was originally ordered it had not been settled that Mr. Beck was to leave his field in order to join you in bringing the two boats to Seattle.

Your basic trouble is two-fold - first: you assumed, or thought, or understood, that upon Mr. Keeler's counsel you were authorized to go ahead as you did, and secondly: you omitted to seek the cooperation and instructions of this office and made the very serious error of supposing this and supposing that.

The object of my letter and of the frank criticism which I made was to so present the matter as to pave the way for avoiding any such unfortunate misunder-



December 4th, 1923.

standing in the future. What has been done has been done and it is a matter that no longer need concern either of us. If our recent joint experience can, as I am sure it will, with your loyal cooperation, which I grant you have ever been ready to give, avoid any such result in the future, then our present correspondence will not have been in vain.

With regard to some of the things that Dr. Young wrote in his letter I purposely and specifically repeated them in my reply as I felt well assured that either he had been gathering ideas from you or else had, in his irresponsible but enthusiastic way, said more than he should have written. It was for the purpose of developing this fact that I referred to Dr. Young's reference to the "Lindsley" as making clear the implication and its inspiration. I accept, unqualifiedly, your denial of any personal responsibility for Dr. Young's statements.

May I add that you did quite right in sending to Dr. Marquis a copy of your letters to me. Had you not done so I would have turned over to him for his reading and information your letters to me. I had an opportunity to confer with Dr. Marquis on Saturday afternoon last and the foregoing reply is the result of that conference.

The letter of Mr. G. E. Krause dated November 12th, addressed to me, makes it quite clear that Mr. Krause certainly should not be kept from the just amount due him any longer. Mr. Keeler conferred with me about a month ago and upon your statement "Accounts of Hoonah Manse Rendered by G.E. Krause", from which it appeared that there was a total of \$2,955.13 due, Mr. Keeler secured an additional grant from the Board of Church Erection of \$800. in the hope that this would surely complete the total cost. I think that you can visualize the difficulties and uncertainties with which we were beset by noting the following statement:

The original estimate made by Mr. Keeler on which he obtained a grant of \$2,000. was admittedly far below the actual need. . . . \$ 2,000.

When in Alaska he ascertained that no cellar had been provided for and requested authority for allotting \$500. from the Ketchikan Manse sale, additional. On conference with the Board of Church Erection they agreed to this allocation (bear in mind that our agreement with that Board provides that we return to them all grants made to this Board on buildings owned by it when the properties are sold). . . . 500.

When Mr. Keeler returned to New York he requested that \$300. additional from the Ketchikan Manse sale be added to the Hoonah manse grant. . . . 300.

Soon after the receipt of your letter of October 5th last, enclosing the above mentioned account from Mr. Krause, Mr. Keeler recommended to his Board that the balance of the proceeds from the Ketchikan Manse sale, unallocated, amounting to \$800. be applied to the Hoonah manse. . . . 800.

In addition, he recommended and the Church Erection Board granted the further amount of \$800. referred to above . . . 800.

Thus we had a total of. . . . \$4,200.  
which you will note is more than double the amount of the original estimate, although that fact is hardly to be surprised at because the original amount was ridiculously low.

Inclusive of the lumber bill and freight thereon, and amounts sent you, we have paid a total, thus far, of \$3,900, leaving a balance of \$300. of the above total grant, check for which latter amount I am now enclosing.



Rev. David Waggoner, - page 3. December 4th, 1923.

I also enclose a second check for \$794.18 additional. These two remittances may be turned over to Mr. Krause and if the statement rendered under date of November 14th covers the final and definite amount of the full cost of construction of the Hoonah manse, then I will ask you to secure from Mr. Krause receipt in full.

The reason for making one check payable to you and the other to Mr. Krause is that the smaller amount represents the balance of the grant made by the Board of Church Erection, and the other, payable to Mr. Krause, covers an amount which I am advancing in the hope and expectation that we can, in some way, obtain this money either before the close of the current fiscal year or immediately after the beginning of the next year, from the Church Erection funds.

I should have thanked you for the pictures of the new manse. I can readily see that no attempt at architecture was made, and probably under the circumstances it was inadvisable and still further unnecessary to attempt anything more than a plain building. It reminds me of nothing so much as a country store - (this by way of facetiousness and not in a sense of criticism or complaint.

I am glad that you sent a carbon copy of your letters regarding the Hoonah manse direct to Mr. Keeler as he will then get your reaction on this matter firsthand.

Yours sincerely,

VB MG ~~David Waggoner~~ Treasurer

Encls. 2



December 4th, 1923.

Re: Hoonah, Alaska, Manse

Mr. C. E. Krause,  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Mr. Krause:

I thank you for your letter of the 12th ult. in which you enclosed a statement of your agreement with Rev. A. M. Keeler in connection with the building of the manse at Hoonah.

So far as this office is concerned you are not held responsible in any way for the unexpected increase in the cost of this manse and we sincerely regret that because of mismanagement on some one's part, we do not attempt to say whose as it is not clear just where the trouble lies, and possibly through misunderstanding here at this end of the line through representations made by Mr. Keeler, you have been kept out of your money for a longer time than we ourselves could wish.

We appreciate very much your kindly attitude towards this matter as represented in your efforts to keep the cost down to the lowest point. It was our expectation at the time the lumber was originally delivered that it would be of the best quality and that because of the desire of the lumber company, through its manager, to save the Board some money, proper care would be taken in forwarding the right kind of material.

We also assumed at the time the lumber was ordered, that Mr. Beck would be at Hoonah to receive it and direct where it was to be placed and in such manner as to make it easily gotten at without undue trouble and without requiring it to be resorted and replaced. Circumstances which we could not foresee have caused the unfortunate mix-up. Having had one experience of this kind it will be helpful to us in avoiding any such condition in the future.

I am sending to Mr. Waggoner by this mail, check which he will endorse to your order for \$300., and a second check for \$794.18, which I have made payable to your order, covering a total of \$1094.18 which amount, we understand, pays in full your account in erecting the Hoonah Manse. I am sending the latter check to Mr. Waggoner so that he may have full record of all money transactions.

Again thanking you for the kindly tone of your letter and for your appreciated patience, I am

Very truly yours,

VB MG      Treasurer



December 4th, 1923.

Re: Hoonah, Alaska - Manse

Rev. David C. Wylie, D.D., Secretary,  
The Board of the Church Erection Fund,  
Building.

Dear Dr. Wylie:

Enclosed you will find photograph just received of  
the new manse building at Hoonah, Alaska.

It is much more substantially built than the old  
one, as the latter was very poorly built because of limited funds.

As previously reported to you such material in the  
old manse as was not utilized in the new building will be put into  
an enclosed crib for storing the mission boats during that part of  
the season when navigation is impossible. You will, therefore, see  
~~that with~~ <sup>that with</sup> the grant made by the Board of Church Erection a splendid  
addition has been made to the Hoonah field.

One can hardly appreciate what <sup>a blessing a</sup> ~~this~~ boat crib  
will be to the men who run the boats in the interests of the mission  
work. Heretofore the boats have had to remain out in the open during  
each winter season. Now they will be properly protected when out of  
commission.

Yours sincerely,

VB MG

Treasurer

Encs.



December 5th, 1923.

*Re. Hoonah, Alaska*

Rev. S. Hall Young, D.D.,  
Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Dr. Young:

*filed in ~~Dr. Young~~ folder  
Juneau file (Alaska)*

I have your five-page (letter dated November 17th.) I also received a long letter from Mr. Waggoner. I am replying to him to this effect: that his presentation of his side of the case regarding his connection with the Hoonah Manse is a pretty fair alibi providing he was warranted in negotiating with the representative of another Board in using funds that belonged to the Board of Home Missions, and further providing that he was warranted in remaining silent at a time when he should have known the Board should have been consulted not only as to whether the proceeds from the Ketchikan Manse sale were available but also as to what should be done when it became known that there was an extraordinary increase in the cost of the Hoonah Manse. This is where the mistake occurred. It does not relieve any one from responsibility to make the excuse that you thought this or thought that, or supposed this or supposed that. In matters that concern this Board definite instructions should be in hand. If not, they should be sought. Herein lies the crux of the whole misunderstanding.

I am sending to Mr. Waggoner by this mail checks to cover the full balance due on the Hoonah Manse.

If as a result of my lengthy letter we can avoid any like experience in the future, this being the real object of my letter, then I feel that it was not written in vain. This whole incident, so far as we are concerned, is now closed.

Yours sincerely,

VB MG

Treasurer



December 17th, 1928.

Rev. Robert Joseph Diven, D.D.;  
Wrangell,  
Alaska

Re: property at Hoonah, Alaska

Dear Dr. Diven:

While this letter is addressed to you, and properly so as the Chairman of the Committee on National Missions in order that you might have the fullest information regarding all matters pertaining to the interests of the Presbytery, it is intended ultimately for Brother Beck.

Inasmuch as some portion of the original holdings of the Board in Hoonah has been released or at least leased to the United States Government for Government purposes, we will need to have a definite and dependable description of the metes and bounds of the property which the Board now holds clear through the United States Government Patent which we hold, as well as a description of any portion thereof which this Board is not competent to transfer to the Board of National Missions because of either a prior contract, exchange or lease. As you can readily understand it will not be sufficient to furnish us with a description of such small part of our original holdings as is now used by the Government, but we will need a full description of that portion still held by the Board.

I may also say that after once the title to the Hoonah property is vested in the Board of National Missions, it will then be in order, with a fair prospect of success, for your Committee to confer and cooperate with Mr. Beck in presenting some definite plan whereby the present holdings of the homesteads of some of the natives may be recognized in some permanent form.

I am confident that the Board of National Missions will view more sympathetically the question of carrying out a consistent policy with the natives now enjoying homesteads, in harmony with and confirmation of the hope that was held out to them when they were encouraged to erect their present buildings. I, therefore, strongly recommend that this phase of the matter be taken up with as little delay as possible in order that the way may be opened for the presentation of this renewed request to the Board soon after title to the land is vested in the Board of National Missions.

I enclose a copy of presentation made in the early part of 1923 to the Board of Home Missions which presentation was formulated after my consultation with the Home Missions Committee of the Presbytery in 1922 when I visited Alaska. I am submitting this enclosure to you now that the presentation as then made may be amended, where necessary, and strengthened



Rev. Robert Joseph Diven, D.D. - page 2

where possible, preliminary to resubmission of the matter to the Board of National Missions. This enclosure will be a good basis on which to base such presentation on behalf of the Presbytery as it may deem best.

I will make it plain to the Board that the conditions are such at Hoonah that special and separate action should be taken regarding the disposal of some of our property there to the natives, and that whatever action may be taken should have no bearing upon the question of properties elsewhere such as at Haines, for instance, where the conditions are entirely different.

Yours sincerely,

VB MCC  
Enc.

Varian Banks, Treasurer Trea